THE INDEPENDENT

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Women win protection from 'second rape' in the witness box

Rape victims who suffer the ordeal of crossexamination by their attackers are to be given new protection, Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, has told 'The Independent'.

Donald Macintyre and Michnel Streeter discuss his reaction to cases that disgusted the country. and which he describes as a continuation of rape

The key to protecting rape victims in the witness box is likely to be a more active role for judges. They could take over

the questioning of the women themselves to prevent "excessive" cross-examination by their alleged attackers. Lord Irvine said yesterday.

He admits that the public is "enormously concerned" at re- brisk action. cent cases in which accused rapists have subjected women to long and taunting questioning in the witness box. Alleged rapists who were representing ted, "as it seems to some members of the public to extend the rape by other means - the other means being cross examination. It must be addressed urgently".

Earlier this month, a Crown rapist who "mercilessly" cross-

examined two victims for several days. Ministers have already announced a wideranging inter-departmental review to consider the issue. Now, Lord Irvine is promising

Considering possible solutions, the Lord Chancellor highlighted the role of the trial judge. He said: "You could, for example, contemplate the themselves were being permit- judge intervening and taking over the cross-examination himself if his attempts to restrict excessive cross-examination by alleged rapists of their victims

was simply not being oheyed." The judge is in control of his own court." said Lord Court judge called for a change Irvinc. But taking over cross-exin the law after he sentenced a amination would be an option "only after his reasonable ef-

forts to restrict cross-examination to what is relevant and necessary for a fair defence by the defendant has failed."

He warned though that there would be serious problems in taking away any rights of a rape defendant to defend himself because of ohligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, which is shortly to be incorporated into British law.

"It is a difficult question. We have clearly decided in government we're not going to shoot from the hip".

At a recent case at Knightsbridge Crown Court in London, Judge Timothy Pontius jailed for 16 years a rapist who had "mercilessly" questioned his two victims in court. The judge

made it clear he was not punishing the rapist for the way he defended himself.

But he added it was " highly regrettable" that the law allowed an unrepresented defendant "virtually an unfettered right to personally question his victims in needlessly extended and agonising detail for the obvious purpose of intimidation and humiliation."

One of the victims had to give evidence twice about the intimate details of her ordeal after the first jury was discharged following a heated clash with the judge over his behaviour and attitude towards her. She later asked the judge: "Do I have to put up with this? I have never

been so humiliated in my life." In his interview, the Lord

Chancellor also binted that the Government may consider setting up a "hardship" or "hard cases" fund as part of its legal reforms, in which ministers plan to remove legal aid for all civil actions involving damages claims. The legal profession, which claims the reforms will reduce access to justice for the poor, will see this as a welcome sign of compromise, but still insists the plans are being rushed

through without proper

Too hig for his boots? On page 19, Donald Macintyre speaks to Lord Irvine about a rumbustious and controversial few weeks for the man now described as "the second Cardinal Wolsey".

consideration.

INSIDE TODAY

Give that woman undies (and get it right) 15/FASHION

... and give that woman a cigar

16/FEATURES

Treat yourself to a **Damien Hirst** ashtray for £120

THE EYE



Front Page News: The play's a hit THE EYE



TELEVISION. The Eye, page 12. CROSSWOWERS Page 28 and The Eye, page 9

WEST HER The Eye, page 10



Christmassy. Rain lashing down. Wind howling. Snow forecast. Then a friend hands you a glass of wine that shimmers in the firelight like sun on the water at St Tropez. James Herrick Chardonnay may not sound Mediterranean but as you raise the glass there's a rush of citrus and spice like the Mistral in your face. Then follows a flavour-tour of the South of France wild thyme, vanilla, cloves, gooseberry, lemon, lime till you can feel the warmth on

There you are, feeling anything but

James Herrick CHARDON!

your back and the blue Mediterranean between your toes. Stay awhile. Have another glass.

James Herrick THE PICK OF THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

Disgusted Desert Storm heroes to hand back medals

British veterans of Operation Desert Storm are to make the ultimate gesture of their sense of betrayal at government inaction over Gulf War syndrome. Next month, dozens will go to the Ministry of Defence to hand back the medals they won serving Queen and country.

They were intended as symbols of heroism. Silver-medals, bearing the airman's eagle, the sailor's anchor and the soldier's SA80 rifle, were issued to those who returned home victorious from war in the desert. The sandy stripe on the ribbon was a reference to the difficult terrain in which the 51,000 holders of the new Gulf War medal had risked their lives.

EXCLUSIVE BY IAN BURRELL

But just as thousands of the returning troops have fallen ill or died since the war, so the medals themselves have lost their lustre: the budges of pride have become objects of loathing for many sick veterans.

Next month, in the most dramatic display of their anger since the end of the conflict, scores of veterans will converge on the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall to return their medals. The mass protest is believed to be unprecedented in the history of the armed forces and will underline the sense of abandonment felt by many of those who have become ill since serving in the war.

Their sense of isolation has been enhanced by their belief that the Government has abandoned Labour's pre-election promises that they would be fairly treat-

ed. Richie Turnhull, a Chester-based Royal Air Force veteran, said: "The MoD have betrayed us, taken away our health and in some cases people's lives. They may as well also have the pride we had in our medals because we can't use them to pay our medical bills... The ministers may have changed and disinformation are still there."

Since the idea of returning the medals was first mooted among veterans three days ago. 67 former Gulf troops have pledged to take part. Dozens more are expected to join the protest which is scheduled to coincide with next month's seventh anniversary of the start of the air war in the Gulf.

Members of both the Gulf Veterans Association and the National Gulf Veterans and Families Association will be handing back medals. The families of at least two dead vercrans are also participating in the protest.

The veterans are demanding a full and independent inquiry into Gulf War illness and the way the MoD has handled the issue. They believe that an inquiry would improve their rights to war pensions and benefits and strengthen their legal claims for compensation. They say that 140 veterans have died since returning from the Gulf and up to 6,000 are now sick. Some 1.900 have registered for treatment with the official Medical Assessment Programme.

Sean Rusling, who was a paramedic with the 4th battalion, the Parachute Regiment. felt an overwhelming sense of achievement when he first received his medal. "I was very, very proud... There are people walking about today because I was able to give paramedical assistance to them." Mr Rusling, of Hull, is now sick, and feels the Government has failed him. "Such is my distress and sadness at the way the veterans have been treated that if it takes this gesture to make them sit up and think then

we will throw the medals back at them." Tony Flint, of London, who served as a medic with 205 General Hospital, said: "When I see my medal now I just feel anger



because of the way we have been treated." Lost pride: Veteran Richie Turnbull with the medals he intends to return

TODAY'S NEWS

Election fraud charge

A warrant for the arrest of Mohammed Sarwar, Labour MP for Govan, has been issued on charges of election fraud. The charges relate to the alleged late registration of voters, attempting to pervert the course of justice and contraventions of the Representation of the People Act In connection with election expenses. Mr Sarwar is due to appear at Glasgow Sheriff Court today. Page 3

Sheffield wins sports HQ

Sheffield was named yesterday as the headquarters of the new United Kingdom Sports Institute. Up to £60m of Lottery money will be made available for the Sheffield project. which it is hoped will help Britain produce a new generation of world and Olympic champions across a wide range of sports. The plan involves Sheffield's two universities, two bospital trusts and the city council. Pages 26 and 28

Jail for IRA plotters

Three IRA men were jailed for a total of 62 years at the Old Bailey for plotting to launch a devastating lorry homh attack in London. Patrick Kelly, Brian McHugh and James Murphy were convicted of conspiring to cause explosions between January and September last year. Security forces believed if successful, the planned assault would have matched last year's attack which destroyed Manchester city centre. The gang had access to many tons of explosives and was using a secure storage unit in north London as a bomb factory. Page 6

Williams team cleared

An Italian court yesterday cleared Frank Williams and five other defendants of the manslaughter of Ayrton Senna, the former world motor racing champion. The charges had been brought following Senna's death in a crash during the 1994

San Marino Grand Prix at Imola. The prosecution had argued that the accident followed modifications to the steering column in the Brazilian's Williams car. Motor racing officials, who had feared for the future of the sport in traly if guilty verdicts had been returned, welcomed the judgment Page 28

Mandela on the attack

Nelson Mandela yesterday addressed his African National Congress for the last time as its president. But the speech was not so much a farewell as a line drawn under the rainbow nation rhetoric that has endeared him to South Africans of all races and to the world outside.

He did not talk of racial harmony but instead mounted a concerted attack on white privilege. He also insisted that the "white-owned" media had been undermining the ANC revolution for too long, and it was time it transformed itself. Page 7

COLUMN ONE

A nation gripped as the First Dog gets a name

The president of the richest and most powerful nation in the world scheduled an end-of-political-term press conference yesterday to expatiate on such weighty matters as the expansion of Nato, the Asian financial crisis, the stand-off with Iraq, the scandals in his own Democratic Party, and the state of the planet in general. But, tape-recorders aloft, lenses trained, cellphones at the ready, there was only one thing we really wanted to know - we reporters, that is, and upwards of 150 million Americans - the name of THAT DOG.

For the past 10 days, ever since the unconfirmed report that First Car Socks was no longer to have sole prowling rights at the White House, the American public has been transfixed and the media at action stations. After all, it is not every day that the leader of the free world switches from a one-cat policy to a twin-track pet policy.

Nor is the chosen beast just any dog. It is, note, not a common or garden labrador, but a "labrador-retriever cross". And it is certainly not, as you or I might say, hrown, but "chocolate-coloured".

What is more, you had only to see the First Photo to realise that the President, never one to wear his heart elsewhere than on his sleeve, was besotted. He looked at it and held it melringly, just the way he occasion-



ally looks at Hillary, always looks at Chelsea, and might look (dare one say) at a cherished girlfriend, or a teddy-bear. As the White House spokesman said of the first meeting: "Bonding occurred."

Since then, the chase has been on to find The Name. Every newspaper, television channel and Internet website worth its audience solicited contributions - hut they hardly had to. The names were rolling in already: from Shoes and Sax (to pair with Socks), to Hershev, Nestle and other chocolate derivatives, to Reno (after the attorney general criticised for appearing over-loyal to her boss). Less kindly souls offered Impooch. Scandal or - in reference to the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives and Mr Clinton's one-time political sparring partner - Newl

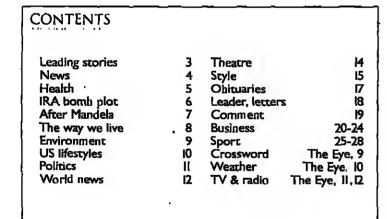
Television talkshows opened with dog quips. Television presenters not known for their soft touch offered bome videos of their furry friends and reports from the front-line of Walkies to tutor the President in his new responsibilities. Thoroughly outflanked, the White House capitulated and invited suggestions from the nation. (You would have to be a political innocent to sniff at the 54 million votes represented by America's dog-owners, and Bill Clinton is hardly that.)

Still, though, the White House was in denial. As recently as Monday, the official spokesman insisted - O tempora, o mores! - that the President's new dog was not - repeat not - a media ploy: "He just wanted a dog". Pressed for the name, two White House spokesmen harked in chorus -"strictly not for attribution".

Still the drama was not over. Dangling White House reporters on the end of the First Lead, Mr Clinton told them (after trying to divert their attention by announcing a senior appointment that could sour his relations with Congress for months) that a name had been chosen at a family conference on Sunday. But no - well aware of how difficult it might be to attract a decent audience to an announcement about Nato in the last shopping week before Christmas - he would not announce it until Tuesday's press conference.

And the name? The presidential dog is called "Buddy", a friendly all-American name that also happened to belong to the President's recently deceased uncle, who hred and trained dogs for more than 50 years. Inevitably, the topic for last night's talkshows was what the great American public thought of the name. That's democracy for you.

- Mnry Dejevsky, Washington



NO BIG DEAL OR ANYTHING. I JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LINE TO KNOW.

YOU KNOW?

PEOPLE



Michael Parkinson: 'The talk show is like a successful dinner party'

Photograph: BBC

No gimmicks as plain-speaking Parky returns

He has never said so directly, but Michael Parkinson has always believed he was the "best bloody interviewer in the world" and next month he returns to the small screen in his long-awaited comeback series.

It has been 15 years since the silver-haired Yorkshireman hosted a chatshow, but the original format remains unchanged. He has promised a return to proper conversation with none of the gimmicks and endless plugs that have characterised similar shows in recent years.

"I have always believed the talk show is like a successful dinner party, where the viewer pulls up a chair and looks over my right shoulder at someone they always wanted to meet," he said.

Among the guests waiting to be grilled when the show returns on 9 January are Sir Anthony Hopkins, Barry Manilow and the comedian Paul Merton, whom Parkinson has said he rates as the funniest man alive. Elton John has also agreed to appear, as have Liam Neeson and Ewan McGregor.

The BBC approached Parkinson, 62, more than a year ago, after a succession of high-profile talk shows on all channels received a lukewarm reception. Parky

regularly attracted 12 million viewers to his programme between 1971 and 1982.

"They always say so-and-so is going to be the next Parkinson, but how can they be when they don't understand what I understand about the talk show?" "For me the secret is being a good listener and

I'm looking forward to the new series immensely." Parkinson, who started his career with the Bamsley Chronicle, said there was no difference between a reporter and an interviewer.

"It's the same job really. A talkshow host is a reporter. His joh is to elicit answers and information from a guest. The only difference is the talk show host has to do it while tap dancing," he said.

His routine before a show will also remain unchanged. No alcohol the day before and always writing the name of his guest on a clipboard - just in case his mind goes hlank. "I even wrote down Bing Crosby's name. It was a superstition ever since I couldn't remember John Wayne's name during a broadcast. I just kept thinking Duke. I knew it wasn't Duke Ellington but I couldn't think which Duke it was." - Kate Watson-Smyth

Soviet spy George Blake can't profit from book royalties

thwarted in his attempt to gain. Blake should not profit from his employers organisation was force £90,000 in royalties from his book misdeeds. They thought it shock to offer a fulsome apology to MPs about his years with the Secret Intelligence Service.

Three Court of Appeal judges, beaded by Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, granted the Attorney General, John Morris, an injunction which bars publishers Jonathan Cape from sending any more money to Blake, who escaped from Wormwood Scrubs and fled to Moscow in 1966.

Yesterday's ruling overturns a judgment delivered in the High Court last April, when the Vice Chancellor, Sir Richard Scott, said that lifelong fidelity for spies and other security service members represented "an interference with rights of free expression". Sir Richard also said that the Attornev General could do nothing, because Blake was disclosing information which was no longer

iep...Just a few schoo

FOR SOME FELLOWSHIP

Soviet spy George Blake has been But the appeal judges said that Roger Ward, head of the college £50,000 from his publishers even misled a Commons committee. hefore putting pen to paper, should gel rich on his notorious occutive of the Association of Colreputation.

Blake's book, No Other Choice. details alife of espionage very different from the James Bond in the Times Education Supplement stereotype. Having worked as a that he handed over a mailing list double agent for the former Sovi- of colleges to a private health firm et Union between 1951 and 1960, Blake was rumbled and sentenced to 42 years imprisonment in education sub-committee that he Britain. In 1966 he made a daring had been wrong when he told its escape and fled via Berlin to Moscow, where he still lives.

sponsible for the deaths of several British agents. The Attorney General's lawyers

nate the remaining £100,000 in royalties to charity. - Katherine Griffiths month.

College chief's apology to MPs

ing that Blake, who received yesterday after admitting that he

leges was already in doubt. The association recently ordered an independent inquiry into allegations from which he received payments.

Last night he told the Commons members that there was a register of interests for senior AOC staff and Blake, now 74, was held re- that they would be able to see it. In fact, although the AOC's pre-

decessor organisation, the Colleges Employers' Forum, had a suggested that Jonathan Cape do- code of conduct for its board members the AOC did not move to set up its own code until last

UPDATE

POLICING

Not so tough on the causes of illness

Chief constables must take urgent action to reduce sickness absence in the police, which is the equivalent of 6,600 officers off every day in England and Wales, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said yesterday. The minber of officers retiring on medical grounds - some of whom leave to avoid disciplinary action and to gain a larger pension, must also be cut, although the numbers are already declining.

As part of a package of measures to help dissuade frustrated officers from faking illness, police who want to leave should be offered careers advice and job placements, according to a report by Her Majesty's inspectorate of Constabulary. The HMIC study, Lost Time, found that in the year to April 1997, more than 1.5 million working days were lost because of sick leave, at a cost of £210m a year.

We don't The average number of sick days taken off each year by police officers and civilian staff is 12.5, compared to 8.4 days in a CBI survey, and 10.7 days for civil servants.

Mr Straw also said there could be no justification for some forces, such as Merseyside, attributing 77 per cent of their retirements to ill health, while the rate at other forces, such as Kent, was only 16 per cent.

"The report argues decisively that good management can have a dramatic effect on reducing these levels of sickness and medical refirement."

- lason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent

labour

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March 250 Will Share Service

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ENVIRONMENT

Water bills 'should be higher'

Nearly seven out of 10 consumers are willing to pay higher water bills to guarantee environmental improvements and adequate supplies, a study claims today. They are willing, on average, to stump up an extra £3.11 a month, according to the survey by NOP for the Environment Agency, Ninety-five per cent would rather see cash spent on "green" projects than have

The study of 2.500 bill-payers in England and Wales was carried ont as part of the agency's contribution to the forthcoming review of water company prices. It showed that 86 per cent of customers regard the quality of water in rivers and seas as very important and that 96 per cent want to see money spent on ensuring a reliable water supply.

TRAVEL

Dreaming of a sunny Christmas

More than one in three Britons would love to go abroad for Christmas but fewer than one in six have ever done so, says a survey published As many as 49 per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds would prefer a foreign

Christmas, according to the survey from Barclays Travel Shop Direct. Londoners are most likely to travel abroad during the festive season and Scots the least likely. Most of those who fancy foreign climes at Christmas do so to get away from the British weather.

The survey found that 37 per cent of people overall would like to go away for Christmas, but only 16 per cent had ever been on holiday during the festive season.

			·
Australia (dollars)	2.42	Italy (lira)	2,765
Austria (schillings)	19.74	Japan (yen)	210.99
Belgium (francs)	58.08	Malta (lira)	0.62
Canada (\$)	2.26	Netherlands (guilders)	3.16
Cyprus (pounds)	0.82	Norway (kroner)	11.59
Denmark (kroner)	10.77	Portugal (escudos)	285.44
France (francs)	9.40	Spain (pesetas)	237.06
Germany (marks)	2.81	Sweden (kroner)	12.37
Greece (drachmei)	446.7	Switzerland (francs)	2.28
Hong Kong (\$)	12.26	Turkey (lira)	316,100
Ireland (punts)	1.08	USA (\$)	1.59
		• • •	e: Thomas Cook
		Rates for indicate	

ZITS

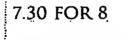
OR! MON! A PEN OFUS ARE GOING OVER TO ASHLEYS

HOUSE ON FRIDAY NIGHT

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman 7.30 FOR 8

TRYING TOTAL ME THAT YOU'RE GOING

TOAPARTY?











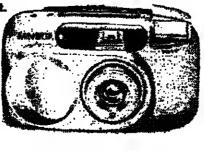
by Chris Priestley

TURN FRIENDS INTO CLOSE FRIENDS THIS CHRISTMAS.

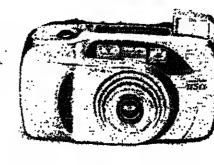
Minolta (UK) Ltd. Rooksley Park, Precedent Drive, Rooksley, Milton Keynes, MK 13 8HF.



Rîva zoom 70 outfit 35-70mm Zoom. Fully automatic. High quality aspherical Zoom lens. Self timer. Versatile automatic flash with red eve reduction. £89,99

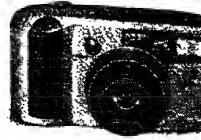


70W outfit. Ultra wide-angle telephoto Zoom lens. Smooth 'pebble shaped design. Soft flash for natural looking portraits. £169,99



115EX outfit. Soft fash for natural portraits and close-ups. Skock 'capsule' design. Fully retractable Zoom lens and firsh. Aluminium casing.

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140EX outfit. The world's smallest Zoom compact in its class. Five modes to match your subject. Stylish aluminium casing Includes remote control.

Labour MP charged with electoral fraud

A Labour MP will appear in court A warrant for the arrest of Mr Sarwar, a gow Govan was suspended for three in Glasgow today charged with electoral fraud, it was confirmed last night. The action against Mohammed Sarwar, MP for Glasgow Govan, is bound to cause

he causes of illne

embarrassment to the Government. Fron Abrams, Political Correspondent, looks at the latest twist in a saga which has run for seven months.

millionaire businessman, was issued last night by the Crown Office in Edinhurgh. He will appear voluntarily at the Sheriff's court today on charges relating to the alleged late registration of voters, attempting to pervert the course of justice and contravention of the Representation of the People Act in connection with election

Since the allegations were first made against him, just after his election in May, Mr Sarwar's case has been the subject of an internal Labour Party inquiry.

Mr Sarwar's constituency party in Glas-

months, and his case was referred to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.

The police inquiry has been going on since May, and Mr Sarwar was interviewed earlier this month in connection with the investigation.

A newspaper alleged that Mr Sarwar had paid £5,000 to an election rival, Badar Islam, to "ease off" his campaign.

The Strathclyde Fraud Squad added the bribery claim to an ongoing investigation into late applications to the Govan electoral roll and allegations of malpractice by Mr being barred from sitting as an MP.

the money he paid to Mr Islam was a loan. made to a fellow member of the Asian community who was in distress, and has described the claims made against him as haseless, false and ludicrous".

Mr Sarwar, who made his money through a cash-and-carry husiness, became Britain's first Muslim MP when he was elected on 1 May.

The Labour Party would not relish the prospect of the by-election which it would have to fight if the MP is forced to give up his seat. And conviction would lead to him

Although Mr Islam polled only 319 votes as an independent Labour candidate, the Scottish National Party polled 11,300 to Mr Sarwar's 14,200, reducing Labour's 1992 majority of 5,600 to 2,900.

If a by-election were to be held, the SNP will have high hopes of winning, particularly as the Labour party in Glasgow Govan has been deeply troubled in recent

Mr Sarwar won a bitter selection battle against the former Labour MP Mike Watson, although they were said to have buried their differences during the election



IN TOMORROW'S

Zöe Ball: Howl survived convent **EDUCATION+**

The street of stars (well, Phil Cornwell and John Sessions) THE EYE

Vanity, plastic surgery and the office party THE EYE

We don't like the French but love their food, fashion and creativity

We have no idea who their Prime Minister is and we certainly do not want to live in Paris. But Louise Jury discovers that the traditional British enmity to the French is not what it was.

The paradox of Anglo-French relations is laid bare in a survey carried out exclusively for The Independent and for Le Monde newspaper in France,

Despite centuries of antagonism between the "frogs" and the "rosbifs". half the French actually like Britain. They, too, have no desire to swap countries - even more French said they did not want to live in London than British people in Paris. But they like us for our afterooon tea, our pubs and the monarchy.

We admire their fashion and fine cooking, according to the survey conducted by Harris, In fact, more than a third of us actually like France, although a fifth registered

"I do think that the Channel Tunnel and increasing travel have softened attitudes on both sides," said Gillian Shephard, the former education secretary and a committed

There are pockets of ignorance. More than 80 per cent of French respondents had a good opinion of Tony Blair and only 11 per cent had no opinion of him or had never heard of him. But in Britain, 82 per cent of people questioned said they had never heard of the French prime minister. Lionel

Jospin, or had no opinion of the man. Yet we have clear attitudes about the French people in general. We like them for their culture most of all, and their creativity and hospitality, although we do not rate their sense of humour and we consider them arrogant and cold.

They like our customs, our economic prosperity and our history, including our parliamentary democracy and the way we fought Nazi Germany and helped them during the Second World War. Unfortunately. no one thought to ask them what they thought of the British character.

Raymond Gubbay, the concert promoter who lives part of the year in his apartment



Borrowed culture: British flock to Les Misérables and to hypermarkets, while enjoying café life, Chanel perfume and the sporting chic of Eric Cantons

VIEWS ACROSS THE CHANNEL

What French think is best of British Traditions: teatime, monarchy, pubs

Economic prospering History, Birth of democracy, Empire Culture: fashion, music, art, film Good taste/refinement Technology: telecoms, aircraft None of the above Don't know

What British find makes France famous? French skills: cooking, fashion, scems Culture: literature, painting, films History: French Revolution, The

Technology: high speed trains Political power: economy, nuclear power 8 None of the above Don't know

on Paris's Left Bank, said he was not surprised the French were warmer towards us than the other way round.

"We're so insular over here. They're so much more international and European in their approach. There's no real customs control over there and when you come into Waterloo it's like Fort Knox. It seems to epitomise the Little Englander approach."

By contrast, the French were buzzing with excitement about us, reported Labour MP Denis MncShane, who used to live in

France and wrote a biography of Minerrand.

government is doing and what makes the Prime Minister tick," he said. "They particularly admire the fact that Blair speaks French and they haven't heard that from a British prime minister for half a century."

The British are prepared to learn. More than half of those questioned thought it would be possible to follow the French example and cut the number of working hours to 35 a week.

■ In Britain, the Harris Research Centre interviewed a representative sample of 934 adults between 5 and 7 December. In France. SOFRES interviewed a representative sam-"There is a fascination with what the new ple of 1,000 adults on 28 and 29 November.

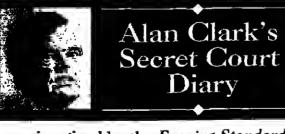
Stature and gravitas in crowded Court 60

Tuesday, 16 December

Ram: After a hearty breakfast of muesli and yogurt, I gird my loins for the second day of my High Court action against the London Evening Standard, Max Hastings, the editor of that appalling comic. will live to regret the day that he decided to run a weekly spoof of my celebrated Diaries ander the byline of that snivelling so-called journalist. Peter Bradshaw. As a literary figure of the highest repute, I cannot countenance the risk that readers may be duped into believing me to be the author of this low-grade trash.

On the way into court, I take a call on the mobile from my old friend, Jonathan Aitken. "Just to remind you. Al," he bawls down the line, "that all you need to cut out the cancer of bent and twisted journalism is the simple sword of truth and the trusty shield of fair play." Much good it ever did him.

10.55am: Court starts, and 1 have to sit and watch someone called Patricia Powers, who claims to be a reader of the Evening Standard and one of my constituents. A tape is placed of a letter that she dictated over



... as imagined by the Evening Standard's Peter Bradshaw who is, in turn, parodied by our own Kathy Marks

the relephone 10 the Standard. in which she said that "mv" columns had confirmed her suspicion that I really am "a nasty piece of work.

Mrs Powers tells the court that she does not want me as her MP because of my failure to uphold family values. She would prefer someone, she says, with 2.4 children and a dog. Does she not realise that I am the proud uwner of three pure-bred Rotweilers, Leni, Eva and Hannah?

11.20am: My colleague Angela Browning sweeps in, looking radiant. Her check jacket of a type favoured by our dear departed Leader, only serves tu enhance her womanly curves. I

struggle manfully to keep my composure. The fragrant Angela giggles most charmingly as she admits that she has never heard of Ruud Gullit. I detect a definite frisson when our eves meet across the courtroom. I know that beneath that matronly exterior beats a passionate heart.

12.40pm: My hour is nigh, and Court 60 grows more crowded by the minute. Half a dozen lovely young women are draped against the back wall. News of my impending appearance must have spread far and wide. Finally, my name is called and I stride confidently to the witness box. But no sooner have I taken the oath in ringing tones - more agreeable pursuits.

than the case is adjourned for

2.05pm: I take the stand once again and assume an air of lofty gravitas. Geoffrey Hobbs, my QC, outlines my stature as a historian, to the accompaniment of some inexplicable sniggering at the back of the room. The odious Peter Prescott, counsel for the Standard, tells me that the only reason I have brought this case is because Bradshaw's columns are an insult to my "colossal vanity". I parry his questions with haughty disdain. There are gratifying gales of laughter from the public gallery. Prescott suggests that I am an arrogant man. I smile at him pityingly. Arrogant, moi? 3pm: Hastings, who lumbered in late, has now dozed off at the hack of the court. The man is quite beyond belief. Presconasks me if I am obsessed with my personal appearance. Wouldn't he be, if he had my physique at the age of 69? It's not my fault if women insist on throwing themselves at my feet. 4.30pm: Having reduced Prescott to mincement. I leave the box. Tomorrow, with a hit of luck, the case will finish. leaving me tree to return to

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Mother takes on police after son's death

Authority yesterday announced an investigation into how the Metropolitan Police reacted to the death of Asian student Ricky Reel. His family told lan Burrell that the case has similarities with the police response to the murder of black teenager Stephen Lawrence.

When Ricky Reel went missing for the first time in his life, his mother, Sukhdev, knew immediately that something was

From the next morning she bean walking the streets of Kingston-upon-Thames daily, from 8am to 3am, scouring disused huildings, handing out posters, talking to shopkeepers, nospital staff and school teachers.

The police, she says, were unconcerned. They told her that her 20-vear-old was old enough to choose not to come home after night out with friends. As a mother she knew differ-

ent. Ricky, a second-year computer science student at Brunel University, carried a mobile telephone and always called her if he was going to be late. And what worried her most as she continued her increasingly frantic search was the news from two of they were without Ricky, who Ricky's friends that he had been caught up in racial violence immediately before he disappeared.

Ricky and his three Asian street near Kingston bridge debating whether to end a night out on October 14. Ricky protested that he wanted to go home hecause he wished to attend a computer conference the next day.

As they tarried, they were approached by two white youths, racially abused and assaulted. The friends scattered for safety

was never seen again.

the missing boy's family concluded that they had looked friends had been standing in the everywhere in Kingston, apart from in the river itself, Police divers went in on 21 October at the nearby Options nightclub and found the body within

Mrs Reel said yesterday that her son was a strong swimmer but would not normally go near to open water because of a phobia. "I feel that somebody killed my son," she said.

totally disregarded the possibility of a racial attack."

Sukhdev Reel, holding a photograph of her son, Ricky. She suspects he was murdered in a racist attack

After a week of searching. The Police Complaints Authority said yesterday that, following an official complaint, the Met's handling of the inquiry is to be the subject of an inde-pendent investigation by Surrey

The Met fiercely rejects the criticism. It claims that officers reacted promptly when Mrs Reel first registered her son missing at 8.25 the next morning. An officer visited her at home in West Drayton, Mid-"When the police first as- dlesex, that morning, Kingston

quiries carried out at local hospitals, Scarches were made in the area close to where Ricky

and his friends had parked their car. During the next two days, a police boat was used in further searches and doormen at Options were shown pictures of the missing youth.

A Met spokesman said that Ricky's friends had made statements that the two white youths had left the fight to run for a night hus. The bus driver was contacted but had no recollection of any confrontation. Eight weeks on, the white youths have not been identified.

When Ricky's hody was found, a post mortem examination was carried out, concluding that he had drowned. There were no bruises on his

The spokesman said: "We are not ruling out that he was pushed hut we do not have any evidence to suggest that. We don't have any evidence to suggest that there were any suspicious circumstances which led to his death."

A coroner's inquest is due to he heard, but Ricky's family said that they have been told by po-lice that he may have died while relieving himself. Although his fly was undone, his mother does not accept this and has set up a campaign, Justice

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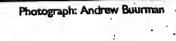
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for Ricky Reel. Her case has been raised by John McDonnell, the Labour MP for Hayes and Harlington, and by Louise Christian, a lawyer known for supporting anti-racist causes. Ms Christian said: "It is just awful that this could happen after Stephen Lawrence has died. It shows that the Met has not learned anything at all. If it had been the son of a rich, white person every stop would have been pulled out."



Bank staff action escalates Radar hunt for meteorite

meteorite which fell last week on the southern tip of Greenland by using ground-penetrating whole spectrum of possibilities." radar. New estimates suggest that the meteorite. which streaked across the dawn sky on 9 December, could weigh 50 tonnes or more.

The search area has been narrowed down to roughly 2,000 square kilometres, but the impact crater left by the meteorite would only be about 25 metres across.

Scientists are encouraged though that the object probably did not melt through the ice, which would have hidden it. "A stone like that will he heated at its surface but not very hot once it reaches the ground," said said Torben Risbo, of

Couple jailed

for fatal child

A couple who escaped facing

murder charges, due to a legal

loophole, over the death of the

woman's 18-month-old daughter were jailed yesterday.

iailed for seven years and

Lavinia Adams, 32, was given five years when they appeared

at the Old Bailey in London for

sentence on cruelty charges. The

maximum sentence for cruelty

is 10 years. The court had beard

that one of them must have

been responsible for the death

of Sarah Adams hut it was not

The pair halted their trial last

month on the second day and

pleaded guilty to cruelty charges.

This followed a tape-recording

of the child's screams and sobs

being played to the jury. The at-

tack was taped by Sherrington as

Judge Richard Hawkins QC

said: "It is quite uncertain

whose act or acts caused Sarah's

death." But he added: "It is

clear from the evidence that

whilst in your joint care Sarah

He said the pair went shop-

ping while the child lay dying of

brain injuries. Sarah was cov-

ered in bite marks and hruising.

hut the fatal injury was a skull

Sherrington, a bank mes-

senger from Sutton, Surrey, had

denied six charges of crucity.

Adams, of the same address, de-

nied four similar charges. Sher-

rington later admitted three

cruelty charges. Adams, said to

be suffering from mild mental

retardation, also admitted three

was repeatedly injured."

fracture.

he held her in a judo leglock.

possible to prove which one.

John Sherrington, 33, was

cruelty

However, it is unlikely that Greenland will at Barclays and Midland. be deluged with metcorite numbers just yet - alroughly the same price as silver, or £4 per ounce. A meteorite may have triggered a fire that according to reports there. Witnesses said that "fireballs" had rained down from the sky, shortly before the children, all under six, were caught in the blaze in a ramshackle house in the impoverished Huila province.

- Charles Arthur, Science Editor

Danish aircrews are planning to search for the the University of Copenhagen, "It would just Workers at three more banks are expected to join come to rest, and perhaps splinter. There's a a wave of Christmas Eve strikes over pay and unening hours which already involve employees

> Union members at Civdesdale and Yorkshire though on the black market they can command banks are protesting over performance pay deals which the union claims will give many staff below-inflation rises. Royal Bank of Scotland workkilled four small children in central Colombia, ers in England and Wales are in dispute over a decision to make all-day opening on Christmas Eve normal working from 1999. A stoppage is planned in Scotland to preserve the traditional 2 January bank holiday, Management at Clydesdale, Yorkshire and Royal Bank of Scotland argued that the votes in favour of action in each case

> > stalemate

The High Court yesterday over-

turned a magistrate's refusal to

make an extradition order

against the IRA suspect Roisin

McAliskey because she is too ill

Justice Hooper and Mr Justice

Jowitt, ruled that Nicholas Evans, the Bow Street magis-

trate, did have power to order

her committal to await a deci-

sion of the Home Secretary for

wanted in connection with a

mortar-bomb attack on a British

Army harracks in Osnahrück in

summer 1996, is suffering from

post-natal depression and is in

a secure mother-and-baby unit

Yesterday's ruling ends an

awkward stalemate. Both Ms

McAliskey's legal team and

lawyers representing the Ger-

man government jointly chal-

lenged the magistrate's refusal

to make the order on the

grounds that he lacked juris-

diction to do so in her absence.

daughter of the former nation-

alea MP Bernadette McAliskey.

say she is innocent and want the

magistrate to make the com-

mittal order, which will then

enable them to bring a High

Court challenge to her extradi-

tion and in seek a writ of hubeus

corpus freeing her from custody.

welcomed the court's decision.

saying: "It will help us with our

application for habeas corpus.

Roisin is still very, very ill in hos-

Her solicitor, Gareth Peirce,

Supporters of Ms McAliskey,

at a London hospital.

Ms McAliskey, 25, who is

her removal to Germany.

Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr

to attend court in person.

did not constitute a majority of their employees. Meanwhile, leaders of 1.5 million local government workers yesterday issued a challenge to government policy by submitting a claim for a 5 per cent pay increase or £500 whichever is greater. Union negotiators representing the country's largest bargaining group are aware that ministers have planned for a minimal increase in the £12.5bn wage bill and that management will insist that any rise will have to be funded by improvements in productivity. Keith Sonnet, head of local government at Unison, the public sector union, argued that quality council services

could only be delivered by a well paid workforce. - Barrie Clement, Labour Editor

THE INDEPENDENT

and a luxury break at Henlow Grange Health Farm



Start the New Year refreshed and invigorated by indulging yourself with the ideal present for your home and yourself. At Henlow Grange Health Farm there is a wide range of treatments such as manicures. facials and reflexology - the ideal way to overcome the indulgence and stress of Christmas. This package is worth £1,400.

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Judges end McAliskey

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Up anchor: Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of the House of Commons, wishing luck to Tracy Edwards MBE, skipper of the British-led all-female crew which aims to break the record for sailing non-stop around the world in a bid for Photograph; Rui Xavier the Jules Verne trophy

DAILY POEM

Tree

by Anne Rouse

The lights flicker in the depths of the fir tree. signifying an idea of heaven: from brunch to branch flinging out weeklaces: neural, giddy, ecstatic.

Only a day ago quietly nurturing the forest, felled, and home off in ropes to preside as the bedecked guardian of this house, the tree accepts our tokens.

as if we could condense our intricate, frested relations, the silences, the out-dated news, into these dazzling skeins; on, then on, all night they flicker.

This poem comes from Anne Rouse's second collection. Timing (Bloodaxe, £6.95). Brought up in Virginia, Anne Rouse now lives in London, where she trained as a psychiatric nurse, became a NUPE steward, and still works in the mental health field.

5/HEALTH NEWS

Smokers go on TV to tell us why they are dying

It took three heart attacks at the age of 31 to persuade Sylvester Khokhar to stop smoking. Now he is to tell a nationwide television audience how his world fell apart. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, reports on a new style of anti-smoking campaign.

"No one wants me any more. I have got my whole life in front of me and employers don't want to know me. When I go for a joh interview they say fine hut when they look at my medical record they say 'no thank yon'."

work since his illness struck, nearly took his life have taken his livelihood and his hopes. Married with three children he did not know they smoked. is now dependent on his wife, Gloria, 34.

Mr Khokhar, a former facing, changed his diet and started walking instead of using the car. But it is too late to save his career. "I have learnt my lesson in a very hard way. I don't want to see others get hurt in the way I did. I'm lucky to he alive - 1 had three heart attacks in three days. I tell my three kids if they smoke they may pay with their

Mr Khokhar's bitter experience is featured in a new £2.5m television advertising campaign to run for three months from Boxing Day.

Designed to shock, it shows real life stories of smokers who have suffered serious illness as a result of their habit. Tracey, 36, has lung cancer which has spread to her brain and glands. David, 50, has emphysema, the lung condition that restricts breathing.

Research published by the pupils who smoke regularly in magazines.

escalates

think they are no more likely to get lung cancer compared with

others of their own age. Mr Khokhar said: "When you are young you don't think far. Young people are sitting ducks for cigarette advertisers and drug pushers. I want to wake them up and hring them to their senses. I hope anyone who sees these ads will think twice before taking a puff."

A survey by the Office for National Statistics published yesterday shows that young teenagers think many more adults and children smoke than actually do. More than a quarter thought that all or most people of their own age smoked although the actual proportion is one in eight.

Non-smokers are under so-After 18 months without cial pressure to smoke. The survey found more than a third had Sylvester Khokhar's future is been offered a cigarette in the bleak. The heart attacks that last six months. Smokers tend to keep their habit secret. Six out of ten thought their parents

A spokeswoman for the Health Education Authority said: "The people in our new tory worker, has given up smok- television ads are graphic examples of the pain and suffering caused by smoking. They are still young and they face serious illness and possibly death because they smoked." The Government was caused

further embarrassment over its decision to exempt Formula One motor racing for 10 years from its proposed ban on tobacco sponsorship after findings from the Office for National Statistics survey showed it was the sport most firmly linked in young people's minds with smoking.

More than one in three

teenagers connected cigarette

sponsorship with motor racing compared with one in four who linked it with snooker, one in six with cricket and one in seven with rugby. However, more than one in four also connected it with football, which does not employ tobacco sponsor-Health Education Authority, ship. Almost all young which commissioned the ad- teenagers said they had seen cigvertisements, shows that al- arette advertising in the last six most two out of three school months, most on hillboards and



Sylvester Khokhar: "I have learnt my lesson in a very hard way ... I tell my kids if they smoke they may pay with their lives'

Photograph: Tom Pilston

WHY FATHERS' CIGARETTES MAY BE CAUSING CHILDHOOD CANCER

One in seven childhood cancers may be due to the father smoking digarettes before the baby is conceived. New research links 14 per cent of cancers among children aged under 16, Including leukaemia and hone cancers, to paternal smoking and suggests that smoking by the mother is not

According to a report In the British Journa! of Cancer

responsible.

sperm may be damaged by the father smoking, resulting in genetic mutations being passed

The team that carried out the research looked at the smoking habits of the parents of 2,587 children who died of cancer and compared then to a similar size control group. "Maternal daily consumption

of cigarettes and paternal use of pipes or clears were unimportant, but there was a statistically significant trend between paternal consumption of cigarettes and the risk of childhood cancer. About 14 per cent of childhood cancers in this series could be attribut-

the report It adds: "The smoking of cigarettes by mothers can. with some confidence, he excluded as an important risk . factor for the generality of childhood cancer."

It is the toxic elements of the inhaled cigarette smoke which are suspected of causing the damage: "Cigarette smoke contains a high concenable to paternal smoking," says tration of oxidants ... If unchecked, oxidants can cause considerable damage to DNA and these reactive mutagens have been shown to be involved in a variety of physio-

logical processes, including cancer."

At what stage the sperm may be damaged is not known. The complete spermatogenesis process takes 74 days and at any die during that period it could be mutated, but earlier smoking might also be impli-

One of the authors, Dr Tom Sorahan of the Institute of Occupational Health at

Birmingham University said yesterday: "The theory based on the latest research is that the DNA is damaged by the smoke. We know that smoking can cause cancer in many parts of the body and the toxic chemicals in the smoke are circulating throughout the body. Latest work shows that it is getting to the sperm and damaging it."

— Roger Dobson

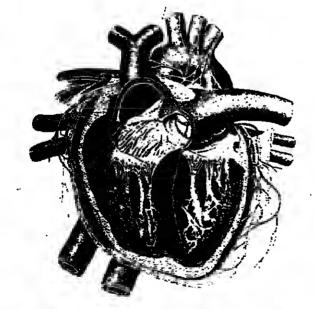
Doubts over value of bypass surgery could transform coronary care

Coronary bypass surgery - the commonest operation for heart disease - does not extend life, according to a study. Jeremy Lourance asks whether the surgical success story of the 1970s and 1980s is set to decline.

Long-term results of coronary hypass surgery are "disappointing" and the operation may have been overused, an expert in heart problems said vesterday. Dr John Irving, consultant

cardiologisl at St John's Hospital in Livingston, West Lothian, said patients and relatives tended to believe that the operation would prolong life when treated with drugs alone survived longer although severe nal Heart, found a third had £11,000 a time and patients still symptoms, such as angina (chest died, half of them aged between need drugs. pain), were better treated with

in the mid-1980s by eight dif-



Heart bypass surgery costs the NHS about £275m a year

patients who were operated on another operation.

40 and 59. Among those who

Dr Irving said: "I do think The operation which was factor," the spokesman said.

it was unlikely to do so. Patients ferent surgeons and followed for the operation has been 10 years, published in the jour- overused. It is also expensive at

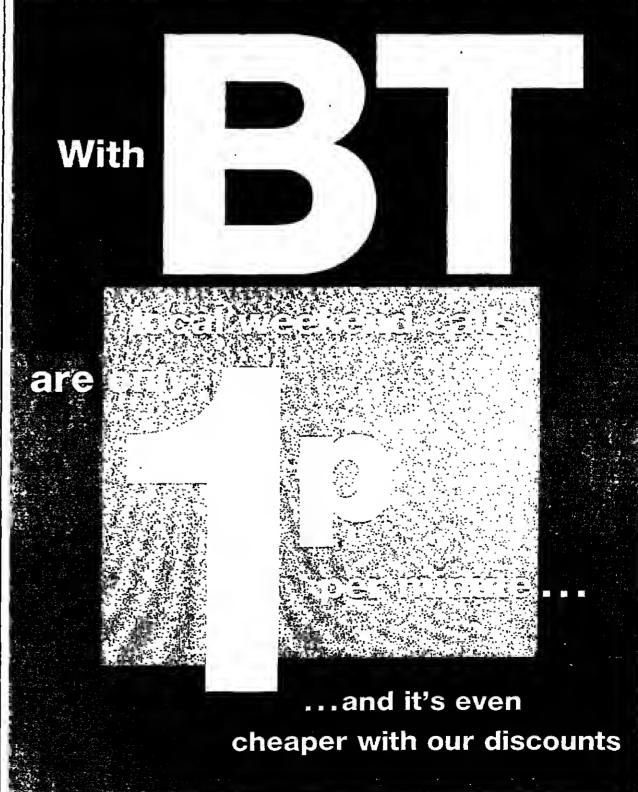
"Medical treatment may be A study of 102 of Dr Irving's had angina recur or underwent tra £500 on drugs. That is a hig saving.

pioneered in the 1970s, involves stripping out the tiny arteries that supply blood to the heart muscle when they have become clogged with fatty deposits as a result of heart disease, and replacing them with veins taken from the leg or chest wall.

It is effective at relieving symptoms of chest pain but the new veins tend to clog up and collapse like the old ones over time. Around 25,000 operations a year are carried out at a cost of £275m.

The number of bypass operations has started to fall as worries about cost have grown, and there has been greater use of angioplasty, an alternative technique in which the coronary arteries are widened using a balloon attached to a catheter introduced via a vein in the groin.

The British Heart Foundation said the symptoms of heart disease could be debilitating and bypass surgery was effective at alleviating them. New drug treatments developed in the lasi 10 years meant doctors survived, 40 per cent either as effective and costs only an ex- were now more selective about choosing patients for surgery. Longevity may not be the only



NHS accused of letting patients suffer

The president of the Royal College of Anaesthetists yesterday accused health nation, which was leaked on Monday to The als have access to up-to-date information authorities and NHS trusts of failing to take patients' suffering seriously.

Leo Strunin, professor of anaesthetics at the Royal London Hospital, said managers were failing to provide the funds cent of hospitals have them. and the leadership necessary to ensure that proper pain relief was available in

bospitals. What is required is a commitment to to it and the wherewithal to do it. Pain goes away - that is the problem. Many health authorities and trusts do not see it as a quality issue, he said.

Professor Strunin was responding to an Audit Commission report, published today. which says that the amount of pain suffered by patients depends on the hospital in which they are treated.

Independent, says hospitals with acute pain control teams - specially trained staff who assess and treat patients' pain - have been shown to reduce suffering but only 57 per

Professor Strumin said: "Some NHS trusts don't think there is any value in these teams. They seem to think it is not a problem if things are done the way they have always been done.

The Patients' Association yesterday launched a campaign to put patients in control of their pain relief. Claire Rayner, its chairman, said: "The

British stiff upper lip really does exist in terms of our tendency to suffer in silence when in pain.

*Our campaign will focus on ensuring

The report, Anaesthesia under Exami- that both patients and health professionon pain management.

The Audit Commission report also found that despite a 41 per cent growth in the number of consultant anaesthetists over the past 10 years, demand still outstrips supply. Half of trusis reported a shortage of consultants with an average of 13 per cent of posts vacant.

One in five trusts had been unable to compensate for these shortages - making it more difficult to schedule operations, of fer epidurals to mothers in labour or staff

pain clinies. The report says the health service should consider training nurse anaesthetists to work alongside consultants to

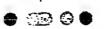
ease the workload. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

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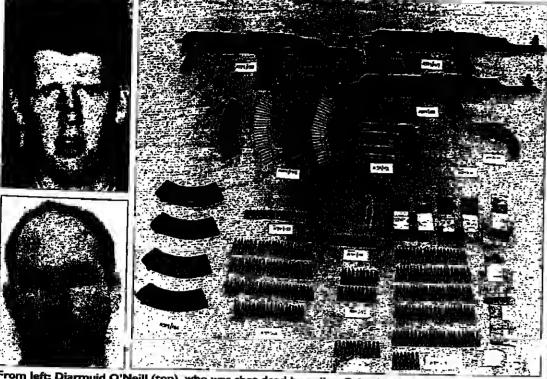
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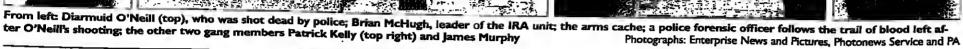
BT h It's good to talk



The London schoolboy who turned Republican terrorist

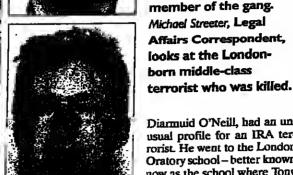


ter O'Neill's shooting; the other two gang members Patrick Kelly (top right) and James Murphy









⊠ CITROËN

IRA bombing unit were iailed for a total of 62 years following the biggest security surveillance operation on mainland Britain. They may now be questioned by officials investigating the shooting of another member of the gang. Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent, looks at the London-

Diarmuid O'Neill, had an unusual profile for an IRA terrorist. He went to the London Oratory school - better known now as the school where Tony Blair's son Euan is a pupil where he was remembered as cheerful, well-behaved and out-

However, he became fascinated by Irish Republicanism as a teenager, selling newspapers in bars and he was said to have idolised the IRA activist Bobby Sands, who died while on hunger strike in May 1981.

Soon after leaving school London-born O'Neill, whose parents later moved back to Irein a young offenders' institution for his part in a £75,000 cash fraud from a Bank of Ireland hranch in Shepherd's Bush, west London, where he worked.

O'Neill, who was 27 when he was shot by police in a hotel in Hammersmith, west London, was by that time a committed Republican and some of the cash was siphoned to the IRA.

On his release from jail he became a "sleeper" waiting to be activated by his IRA bosses. His private life was involved in nationalist politics as well. O'Neill's girlfriend was

of the Basque separatist movement from Amorebieta, near After his death, his Spanish friends paid tribute to "Ginger" as he was known in a Basque

language newspaper sympathetic to the separatist movement ETA, promising: "We will never forget you." The Police Complaints Auhority will now ask his fellow terrorists if they want to assist its investigation into O'Neill's shooting on 23 September 1996.

the coroner, pending an in-Yesterday, after more than 20 hours of deliberation, an Old

A file will then be sent to the

Crown Prosecution Service and

active service unit, which included O'Neill, who was the group's quarter-master, had been plotting a major bomb attack on the capital. A fourth defendant was cleared.-

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The leader of the unit, Brian McHugh, claimed the team had been trying to preserve peace rather than destroy it.

He had been sent to London to decommission the weapons cache - which contained 6.3 tonnes of home-made explosives - as the Republican movement moved towards peace and wanted to join "historic" settlement talks in Northern Ireland, he said.

Sentencing the three men, the judge, Mr Justice Smedley, described this claim as "sheer hypocrisy"

Senior Scotland Yard officers later heralded an "intelligence triumph", involving 50,000 hours of surveillance, which they say prevented a "devastating" attack.

Listening bugs were planted in the suspects' cars and rooms. their electronic pagers and telephone calls - even from public telephone boxes - were monitored, and film from mobile video recorders and surveillance cameras in train stations

Commander John Grieve, head of the Anti-Terrorist Branch, who co-ordinated the evidence gathering after the arrests, said the scale of Operation Tranitus, involving the Metropolitan Police and MI5, who handled the audio surveillance, was the largest and longest of its kind on the mainland.

"It thwarted a major attack on London," said Mr Grieve, who added that the terrorists had enough material to plant four bombs similar in size to the one which devastated the centre of Manchester last year,

Mr Grieve said officers "regretted" O'Neill's death, but said he had been part of an ac-Karmele Ereno, a sympathiser tive unit intent on causing destruction. The firearms unit deployed, including the man known only as "Kilo" who fired the bullets, had been briefed on the amount of explosives and guns the IRA unit possessed.

Those convicted yesterday were Patrick Kelly, 31, who years and James Murphy, 26, who was sentenced to 17 years. All had denied charges of conspiring to cause explosions between 1 January and 24 September last year, and of pos-

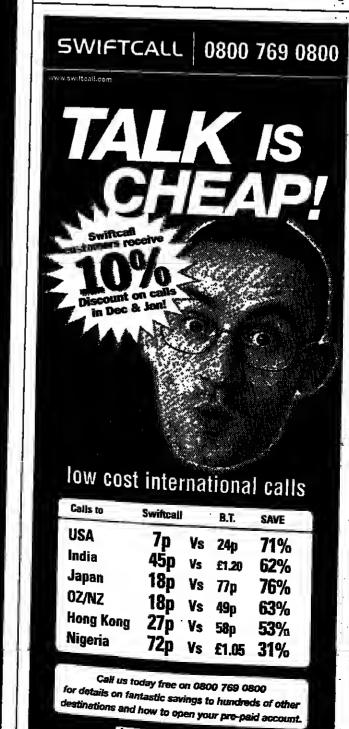
sessing explosives. Michael Phillips, 22, a mechanical aircraft engineer with British Airways at Gatwick airport was cleared of the charges.

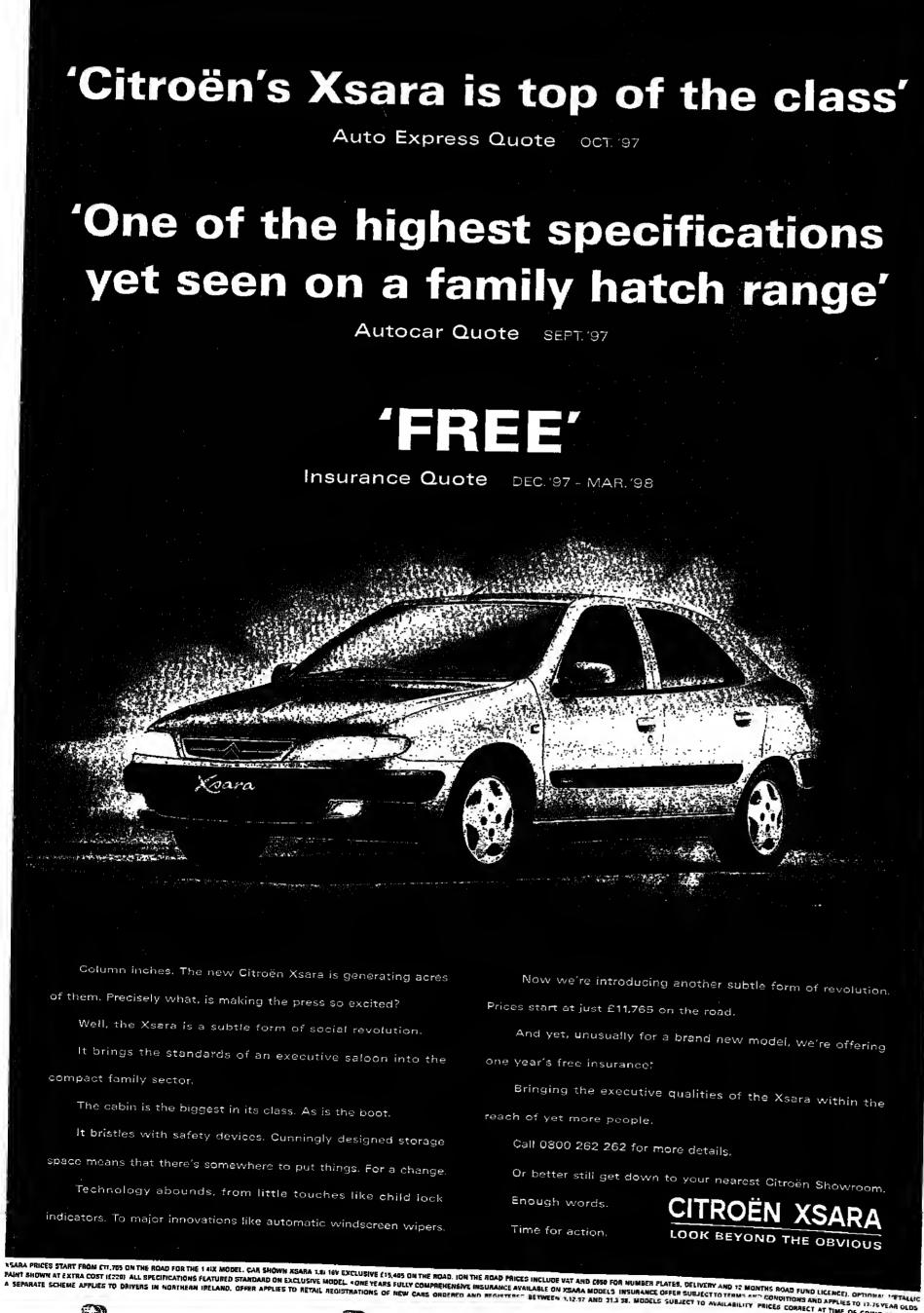
was jailed for 20 years: McHugh, 31, who was given 25 Mbeki the b

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7/SOUTH AFRICA

Mandela attacks white privilege and free press

Nelson Mandela's last speech to the ANC as its president marked a sharp contrast with the rainbow nation rhetoric that has won over the world, Our correspondent watched a defining political moment at the party's 50th national conference in Mafikeng, as the powerful influence of hischosen successor became apparent.

What was surprising was the barsh tone which accompanied the change - with an uncompromising stream of attacks on whites, "white parties" and the "white-owned media" - and the fact that the warm and cuddly President Mandela, not Thabo Mbeki, his much-vilified successor, used his last speech as party leader to lead the scathing, and for him unprecedented, assault.

Could this be the same man that took tea with Betsy Vcrwoerd, ageing widow of the architect of apartheid - a reconciliation too far in the eyes of some party members? Coming from President Mandela the change in tone could not have heen more stark. At first it was assumed that while it was Mr Mandela's lips that were moving Mr Mbeki, sitting a few feet away, was, ventriloquist-style, doing the talking.

At every turn, according to President Mandela, the ANC was being thwarted by those "committed to the maintenance of white privilege". The proceedings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the body charged with exposing the atrocities of the anartheid years, showed "the unwillingness of white society in general, including white politicians, business, the judiciary, the media and the church, to explain its involvement in the maintenance and perpetuation of the apartheid system".

That betrayed white society's



hostility to the new democrat- social change on white resisic South Africa, he argued, Mr Mandela has spent a large part of his presidency wooing truculent right-wing Afrikaners to the new political dispensation. white privilege. But he reserved [Afrikaners] continue to be imprisoned by notions of white supremacy and of supposed Afrikaner interests that are separate and opposed to the interests of the rest of the popu-

tance. He labelled the opposition National Party and Democratic Party "reactionaries", dedicated to preserving But yesterday he had harsh his most scathing comments words for them too. "They for the white-owned media - a source of irritation to the pres- are still involved ident from time to time but Mr Mheki's enduring pet hate.

The media, he insisted were deliberately trying to undermine the ANC revolution. "During the last three years it has be-Faced with deep divisions come perfectly clear that the within the ANC, the president hulk of the mass media in our sought to blame everything country has set itself up as a South Africa's northern oeigb- months. Last week, Mr Mbeki from crime to the slow pace of force opposed to the ANC."

press's desire for a real opposition to the ANC to emerge. as luxuries a new country could He said the media, like white parties, were wrong in portraying South Africa'

as a mature BY MARY democracy. "We in the delicate process of nursing пеw-born haby into a state

of adulthood." he said. Some what is newsworthy to what conmight have remembered, with stitutes public interest. Close asa shudder, the early years of in- sociates of Mr Mheki bave bour. Robert Mugabe, then in- again raised the idea of gov-

He seemed irritated by the ternationally popular, described ernment information bulletins. Under apartheid, the press was the foundations of democracy

The onslaught on the press

resurrected the spectre of a future "independent" regulatory body for the media which might pronounce on everything from

being hroadcast on national

None of these suggestions has been embraced by the media. Mr Mandela said yesterday that in order to protect privileges which found their roots in the apartheid era, the media denounced "all efforts to ensure its own transformation ... as an attack oo press freedom".

The attacks on the press and on whites were loudly applauded by the thousands of ANC delegates who travelled to dependence in Zimbahwe, been floatiog that kite for Mafikeog in the North-west province yesterday for the first he is about to take over." day of a five-day conference.

the mouthpiece of the enemy. Yesterday, that still seemed to be pretty much the view.

Most delegates (hought the president had got the tone just right, "The last conference in 1994 was about reconciliation but this is about our country's transformatioo," said one female delegate,

So was Mr Mandela speaking for himself or Mr Mbeki? One black commentator said: "It needed to be said and be had to say it. If Mbeki had said it he would have been vilified just as

But he added that the

Old guard, young retender: Nelson Mandela, right, conferring with his deputy, Thabo Mbeki, at the beginning of the ANC's 50th general conference in Mafikeng yesterday. Mr Mandela is to give up his presidency of the ANC in favour of Mr Mbeki.

Photograph: AP

speech came from a frustrated presidential heart. Three years on, the president was dismayed at white indifference in redressing past injustices. "He has been saying these things for months in private," said the commentator.

But the president was surely trying also to satisfy disillusioned elements in the party. In its 85-year history, the ANC has probably never been more divided. Three years after taking power it has yet to transform itself from broad-church revolutionary movement to political

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, the president's former wife, shared the platform with him and the ANC executive yesterday. Almost seated in the wings, she could not have been placed further from her exhusband.

Mrs Mandela, accused during TRC hearings of involvement in eight murders, is expected to seek nomination this week, despite the ANC leadership's best efforts, for the ANC deputy presidency. Her attacks on a leadership considered far from radical by the grassroots - have struck a ehord in some quarters.

After Mr Mandela's speech his former wife joined the queue of wellwishers to offer congratulations. Nelson and Winnie smiled broadly as they embraced briefly but warmly amid crowds of supporters who sang and danced around them.

Mbeki the bogeyman emerges from behind the throne to take the reins

Thabo Mbeki this week takes over from President Nelson Mandela as leader of the ANC, the penultimate step in his almost certain ascent to the presidency of South Africa. Mary Braid asks whether a living saint is making way for a Machiavelli par excellence.

The respected Mail and Guardian newspaper summed it up rather well. We are about to be ruled by a man we do not know, it observed in a scene-setting piece for this week's hand-over of power at the African National Congress's 50th national conference.

As President Nelson Mandela, 79, passes the ANC leadership to his deputy Thabo Mbeki, 55, just 16 months before the next general election, the country's postapartheid history enters a new era.

The transition from Madiba (the family name by which President Mandela is affeetionately known) to Mbeki was always. going to be a delicate stage in an already precarious process. Filling the warm, saint-

ly and charismatic Madiba's shoes is an unenviable task. It is not helped when the public feels it is trading a fleshed out, lovable demi-god for a mysterious matchstick man.

The diminutive Mr Mbeki, always beautifully turned out but oh so dull to listen to, is already the bogeyman of the white liberal dinner party. The rumours about him are legion, and often malicious. It is said that he has risen to the top of the ANC since its unbanning in 1990, by plotting the downfall of all political rivals and opponents. Add to schemer, the title termentor of whites. For, ironically, the man who was once critleised as being too cosy with whites is now hilled as their future persecutor.

The facts – sparse as they are – are these. Mr Mbeki is a member of the Struggle arismeracy. His father, Govan, an early ANC leader, was imprisoned with President Mandela on Robben Island. The ANC sent Thabo Mbeki to Britain where he took a masters degree in economies at Sussex University. He later went to the Soviet Union for military training. During 28 years in exile he pressed the ANC's case all over the world. He is credited with masterminding the international sanctions campaign against

apartheid South Africa, and he gained diplo matie experience, connections and an urbane, sophisticated, intellectual image.

Beyond this, much is conjecture. After the ANC's unbanning, the exile group rose at the expense of those who battled for freedom at home. Mr Mbeki is blamed for the recent departure from politics of popular "home" leader, Cyrit Ramaphosa, who led the ANC in the negotiations which ended white minority rule. Some also elaim that he plotted the fall of popular party figures Tokyo Sexwale and Terror Lekota.

The time for President Mandela's inspired acts of reconciliation is over. The ANC, he argues, must now meet its promises to the millions of blacks still languishing at the bottom of the social heap. That puts the wind

up those still sitting pretty at the top. What should worry people most is Mr Mbeki's hostility towards the press. It is doubtful that he really accepts the importance of a free press in a democracy.

If Mr Mbeki's politics are largety unknown, his private life is a complete mystery. He married Zanele in 1974. They have no children, hut a son from a previous relationship disappeared in the Eighties.

Boer war siege that

gripped the nation

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An artist's view of Boers at war Photograph: Hulton Getty



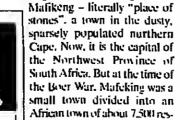
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ment of about 1,35tt. Mafeking had been used as the hase for the Jameson Raid - an unsuccessful mid by the after 217 days under siege. British colonists against the

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idents and a "white" settle-

name even entered the English

language - if in somewhat distorted form. "Maffick. v.i." is of-

ficially defined in the

dictionaries as "to rejoice with

English colonists gave to

Mafeking was the name the

hysterical boisterousness".

The history of the town was so Dutch-speaking Boer republic dramatic, in British eyes, that its of Transvaul, Although the raid failed it was part of the buildup to the Boer War which was fought between Britain and the Transvaal and the Orange Free State between 1899 and 1902.

The total British military strength reached half a million. whereas the Boers could muster less than 90,000. But the British were fighting in hostile territory over difficult terrain. The Boers besieged Mafeking, Ladysmith and Kimberley during "Black Week", in December 1809. But with the landing of more British troops the fortunes of the war turned. The British relieved the besieged towns. There were street parties in London at the news of the relief of Mafeking on 17 May 1900.

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Aids warning casts a shadow over army town where sex is cheap

BY ESTHER **LEACH**

"I have booked an Aids test with my doctor" said the 30-year-old divorcee, "My dad told me to. He said over the phone 'I love you, and don't take this the wrong way, but please have a test'. So I've done it."

The woman was sitting with her girlfriends in a café at the centre of Catterick Garrison in North Yorkshire. About 100 soldiers at the garrison are believed to have taken Aids tests after a confidential army memo was sent to 5,500 troops, warning that two women living near the camp, are carrving the HIV virus. All the tests are so far believed to have been negative.

The formal warning had been issued it said, because of the "liberal affections towards soldiers" of the two women living close to the camp.

The woman in the cafe said: "I have been promiscuous and I am engaged now just for

two months. My fiancé, a squaddie, has been promiscuous too and we both know each other's histories. If the test is negative, I will never have unprotected sex again."

Her "happily married friend", sitting next to her, said young girls who were picked up at the haunts at the garrison frequented by soldiers should take care.

"They can easily pass for 20, the way they dress up, and the squaddies just take their pick. These girls don't know what they are doing or the risks they are taking. But women living near a camp like this only have to walk down the street in a short black dress and they are marked as easy.

"It's very much a man's world here as you might expect. Women are just an ego boost for them. You've heard about the twoday rule - you are never seen with the same woman twice, sex is very casual here."

As the women spoke, a press conference was being called by the camp's deputy com-mander, Colonel Neil Donaldson, who said: "I feel we have a duty of care. We have some very young soldiers who are somehow vulnerable. We have decided to warn them soldiers, and are not averse to indulging there is a significant risk to their health and in casual sex. often unprotected. are invited to modify their behaviour." Col

could do to stop people meeting each oth-

discharged the duty of care. The order posted by Col Donaldson said: "These ... females are believed to be liberal with their affections, particularly to

"All ranks are reminded that there is no

Donaldson said there was nothing they known cure for Aids, in short it is a killer." He said: "We have had information from a number of sources which I can only deer. But he added that he felt a warning scribe as confidential that there are a numshould be given and in doing that they had ber of females in the general area of the garrison who have contracted the Aids virus and are HTV positive."

Colonel Neil Donaldson: 'All ranks are reminded that there is no known cure for Aids, in short it is a killer'

One of the two women said to be at the centre of the alert, told reporters she she was a victim of rumour-mongers, did not have Aids, and would take a test to prove sent round everywhere".

it "I'm getting sick of it. They're making a hig deal out of nothing and it's distress-

The 18-year-old added: "The sooner I get the test done, the better. I've left it too late anyway. But I don't care. I'm still going to get it done." She insisted she "had not been with many soldiers" but said that when she received the results of the test, she would like to "get it photocopied and Photograph: John Angerson/Guzelian

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The second woman implicated in the scare is believed to be aged 20, and a friend of the 18-year-old. A neighbour said she had asked the woman if the Aids rumour

was true and she had also denied it. More than 10,000 soldiers and civilians are hased at Catterick. The garrison has 5,500 military personnel, but at the moment only one regiment is stationed at the hase. Four regiments are on service in Bosnia and two in Northern Ireland.



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GLENDA COOPER AT THE BRITISH PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Why the office party night out can be bad for the next day's business

Hold your office party on a Friday if you want to minimise inefficient work by your employees. according to new research which suggests that the morning-after the night-before may last as long as 16 hours.

Even if you stop drinking at midnight, your ability to work may still be impaired until 4pm chological Society London conference was told yesterday.

Researchers said that while the had effects of being drunk were well known, there had been less work done on how hangovers can impair abilities to do johs.

A group of student volunteers aged between 18 and 24 were recruited to see how concentration and information processing were affected by a "night out". After measuring their responses before they went out, the students each drank between four and nine bottles of beer, recreating a

they underwent a series of tests. ness. And they scored less well This included matching not drunk anything. numbers and symbols and

adding together numbers heard on a tape. "These are tasks that require quite a high level of concentration," said Dr Stuart Anderson, lecturer in neuropsychology at the University of Natal, South Africa. He found that 16 hours after stopping drinking the students were still experiencing the effects of a hangover - nausea, beadache, on the lests than those who had Dr Anderson said that people with a hangover reacted par-

ticularly hadly to stressful situations where they had to think about two things at once. "These results have serious implications for anyone who drinks alcohol," said Dr Anderson. "Even when the students reported feeling sober,

the hangover effects could still fatigue. depression and dizzibe seen in their test perfor-



"party session". The next day Hangover effects were felt 16 hours after stopping drinking

mance for hours after they stopped drinking.

Would you like your appendix taken out by a surgeon who had had nine beers 12 hours earlier or be in a plane flown by a pilot with a hang-

He said that work productivity was likely to be less over the festive season, and he added: "It would be better to hold office parties on Friday to have the weekend off to recov-

er by Monday." • Being on a diet can be a mers faring less well in mental tests than those who eat what . they want, according to the In-

stitute of Food Research. Dr Mike Green, senior research psychologist, said that tests showed that it was not due to food deprivation or lowered glucose levels. People who were not allowed to eat for 24 hours had not shown the same results. Anxiety about losing weight meant dieters exhibited the same sort of signs as the clinically depressed. They also demonstrated poorer shortterm memory and slower reaction times than those who did not think about what they ate.

Doctors predict recovery from vegetative state

A new test may soon enable hospitals to predict when a patient is about to emerge from a vegetative state. Our correspondent investigates.

The test devised at the Royal Hospital for Neurodisability in London looked at 13 patients who came out of a persistent vegetalive state (PVS). Now the therapy team hopes to publish guidance on the programme for the benefit of other hospitals.

The technique, known as Smart (Sensory Modality Assessment and Rehabilitation Tool), could help make it clear when treatment should not be withdrawn and can also tell doctors the right time to apply concentrated stimulation that might bring the patient out of a coma. At present, courts are asked to rule on whether a PVS patient kept alive by artificial feeding should be allowed to die. Medical guidelines say that doctors can apply to a court to have a patient's food and hydrarion withdrawn after 12 months.

The test involves systematically stimulating each of seven "modalities" - sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste, movement and communication - while looking for signs of

returning awareness. Hearing, for instance, can be stimulated by ringing a bell behind the patient. Responses are graded from one (no response) to five this eriminatory responsel which is classified as emergence from PVS. Responses can include reflex actions like blinking, withdrawing from a repeated stimulus, or showing awareness of a direction a stimulus is coming from.

A total of 30 patients were investigated using Smart. The researchers found that seven patients emerged during the study and a further six patients emerged over the next two years. The six all had scores that im-

prived threefold or more in at least one area. Dr Sarah Wilson, from the University of Surrey at Guildford, who will present the team's findings at the British Psychological Society's London conference today said: "People coming out [of PVS] produced a change score of at least three, while those with a change score of two or less didn't come out. It's the first time we have been able to separate the outcome groups as cleanly as this."

Looking for such a level improvement could provide an early warning of when a patient was likely to emerge from a PVS. However, she stressed that a low change score did not necessarily mean a patient was never going to recover.



INDEPENDENT WRITER WINS AWARD

The Independent's Social Affairs Correspondent, Glenda Cooper, has been named runner-up Journalist of the Year in the British Social Services Media Awards 1997. The awards were presented yesterday by the Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson.

Less educated not given full facts on HRT

Women who are less well edncated are more likely to be prescribed hormone replacement therapy than their more qualified sisters, according to a new study.

A survey of more than 1,200 women found that those with no formal qualifications were more likely to be given HRT because they are often given the treatment without really understanding the risks involved.

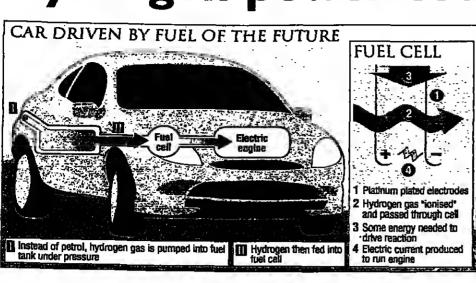
HRT has been shown to protect against osteoporosis, heart attacks and strokes, but it has also been linked to higher risk of breast cancer.

Better educated women may be more able to discuss the pros and cons of HRT with their doctors and subsequently are less likely to end up being prescribed it, said Rona Ruhin, senior lecturer in behavioural sciences at Christ Church College Canterbury. "It highlights a worrying inequality in healthcare for those who are less well educated."

Although women with no qualifications looked for information just as much as the educated women, they were less successful at finding it and were ипаware of the right questions to ask. Ms Rubin said this was an area GPs need to address.

9/ENVIRONMENT

Hydrogen power could spell end for the petrol engine



Car-makers believe the end of the age of the petrol engine is in sight. Randeep Ramesh. Transport Correspondent

examines the chances of hydrogen becoming the fuel of the future

There seems to be little to be gained for Britain's most popular car-maker to be predicting the demise of its most cherished product - the petrol engine. But in committing nearly £250m to developing hydrogen-fuelled

cars, it is exactly what Ford's chairman is saying.
"We view fuel cells one of the

most important technologies for the early 21st century," said Sir Alex Trotman. Ford and Daimler Benz - owners of Mercedes - signed a deal earlier this week to pour millions of pounds into a programme to develop a car which runs on the electricity generated by a reaction be-

tween hydrogen and oxygen. The only by-products, claim its developers, from this "fuel cell are water and tiny amounts of carbon dioxide. The expertise is being developed by Canadian company Ballard Power Systems - which despite making many major breakthroughs has yet to make a profit in a decade,

Motor manufacturers have no real choice in taking this road. With oil supplies running out, action to stop global warming as well as politicians mooting taxes to unclog city streets and stem urban pollution, car makers are being pushed to come up with novel solutions.

Sir Alex has been to see Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, to try and convince him that there is no need to tax the motorist out of the driving seat. At the opening of a new £128m environmental research plant at Dunton, Sir Alex said he was

"seriously worried" when John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and the minister in charge of transport, had called for the end of the two-car

family. The Ford chairman said he saw nothing conflicting in Ford's claim to be both green and pro-car. Sir Alex went on: "I don't think it's productive to demonise the car. People are not going to get out of their cars. We have to make these cars as customer and environmentally-friendly as we can and in a way that does not

damage the economy." It is clear Sir Alex would prefer that Mr Blair follows the US

approach. President Clinton's Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles has seen big car manufacturers fund "blue skies" engine technologies. The partnership influenced California's Air Resources Board to relax plans that would force manufacturers to sell electric vehicles last year.

But the science is some way off reaching the consumer. Mercedes claims some success: it has a running prototype of a fuel cell powered A-class urban car and hopes to produce a four-seat version by 2005. To date, the project has cost Mer-cedes and Ballard nearly £200m

Government steps up campaign to cull badgers

About 10,000 badgers will be slaughtered over the next five years in the Government's latest effort to stop them spreading tuberculosis among cattle. But, says Nicholas Schoon,. **Environment** Correspondent, experts believe developing a vaccine offers the best hope of ending the scourge.

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The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food intends to embark on a huge new experiment in culling badgers, to see how effective eradication is in stopping the spread of cattle tuherculosis.

In one-third of the worst-affected areas of Britain, every hadger will be trapped and killed, including mothers giving milk to their cubs. Under the current, discredited, slaughter policy, lactating sows are spared. In another third of these, "hot spot" areas, the badgers will be left alone - even if TB cases in cattle are rising And in the final third, hadgers will only be killed on a farm after cattle there contract TB.

The experiment will cover at least 30 squares, each measuring about 10km by 10km - or some 40 square miles. They will cover most of the farms that have had the worst problems with cattle TB. Elsewhere, the policy of slaughtering badgers

to control the disease will stop

for the five-year experiment. Farming minister Jeff Rooker said the Government accepted these recommendations from an expert, independent panel yesterday, although there would be two months of consultation before they were implemented.

Next to BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy], this is the most serious issue we have to deal with," he said. The panel and the Government want to find ways of making farmers contribute more towards ending cattle TB. They already pay now through the failure of current policy," Mr Rooker said.

Exactly how badgers pass the disease to cattle is not known, and other species can also harbour bovine tuberculosis. But. said ecologist Professor John Krebs, chairman of the expert panel, "the hadger is a significant reservoir - you'd have to be perverse not to accept that".

The MAFF began gassing setts of badgers, a protected species, in 1975 in the worst affected areas but this was suspended seven years later because of an outcry over the cruelty involved. Current policy is to kill badgers on a farm where there is a TB outhreak in cattle if there is good reason to believe that the infection came from badgers. They are an outhreak each year. in the lured into cages with bait, then

killed instantly with a pistol shot. But the incidence of cattle TB keeps on rising - which is why the previous government commissioned an inquiry by Professor Krebs' panel. While only one in



every 250 British cattle herds has West Country, the West Midlands, and South Wales the disease is much more common. Within these regions there are local hot spots where outbreaks

are even more frequent. Diseased cows have to be

slaughtered, while animals cannot be bought for or sold from an affected herd. About 400 herds are covered by restriction orders at any one time. The ministry spends £16m a year on research, killing badgers, compensating farmers and trying to control the disease.

The Krebs committee said that over the past 20 years, the ministry has never conducted proper experiments to find out how culling can actually work. The trial it advocates would not kill any more badgers over the next five years than the current policy. Professor Krebs said.

That was many fewer than are killed on the road cach year. As for Government, it should boost its spending on research well above the current £1.7m a year. A cattle vaccine needs to be developed, but that is likely to take more than 10 years and will be difficult.

World suffers the worst year ever for forest fires

A leading conservation group claims that this year has seen the most destructive forest fires in recorded history. Nicholas Schoon explains the claim from the World Wide Fund for Nature.

"1997 will he rememhered as the year the world caught fire," said Jean-Paul Jeanrenaud, head of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International's forest programme.

In Indonesia and Brazil alone, more than 5 million hectares of species-rich woodland habitat have been consumed by fire - an area about as large as Switzerland, says a report from the organisation. But there have been serious fires on every continent apart from Antarctica, with the latest striking the east coast of Australia at the beginning of this month.

Many of these fires are started deliberately, and often illegally, to clear land for agriculture and plantations. In some countries they have become massive El Nino. a global weather event which occurs every few years and this time appears extreme.

The fires have caused air pollution levels much higher and more dangerous than those for which traffic, industry and power stations are responsible. They are also adding significantly to the emissions of global-warming carbon dioxide gas which come from hurning fossil fuels.

"We are creating a vicious cycle of destruction, where increased fires are both a result of changes in weather and a contributory factor to these changes," said Mr Jeanrenaud.

WWF says the fires in Indonesia may have set light to thick peat deposits which could smoulder underground for years and start new surface fires during the next dry season.

Hundreds of infant orangutan in Indonesia have been found in the hands of villagers, available for the pet trade. It is believed their mothers fled from the hurning forests with their babies and were then killed by local people. Meanwhile, the government has reinstated 45 or the 146 timber exploitation permits it revoked in the wake of the catastrophic forest fires this year.

The WWF report says that in the Amazon jungles of Brazil says there has been a 50 per cent increase in the number of fires in this year's burning season. which begins in August, compared with that of 1996.

The Brazilian government says the great bulk of these fires drought attributed to this year's are taking place on cleared land or in secondary forest which had already been hurnt. But WWF does not accept that the hig increase is not destroying more virgin forest areas.

Other countries cited in the report as having had severe forest fires are Papua New Guinca. Colombia, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda.

Christmas Day December

"Thanks ever so much for the jumper..."

Boxing Day December

"No, really, I <u>do</u> like it, honest..."

New Year's Day January

"So you're <u>sure</u> I don't need a receipt?"

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10/US LIFESTYLES

Parents wage war against 'cyberbooze'

The national Christmas tree is lit, the strains of 'Jingle Bells' are in the air and the season of good cheer is well under way. Just the time, then, for America's sobriety lobby to warn about the dire combination of youth, computers and drink. Mary Dejevsky reports from Washington on the gathering campaign against 'cyberbooze' and what lies behind it.

Middle America may be very clear about what it is for: God. America and apple pie. But it is equally clear about what it is against, and high on that list is alcohol, especially when drunk Internet in the United States is by minors.

The very thought that thousands of teenagers may be logging on to their computers and ordering alcohol over the Internet - let alone taking delivery of the stuff and drinking it.

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is almost as terrifying to their parents and the public at large as the possibility that they might be exposed to Internet pornography along the way. To some,

"cyberbooze", a new alliance has sprung on to the already crowded lobbying scene. Americans for Responsible Alcohol Access (ARAA), is headed by the attorney-general of New York state, Dennis Vacco, He recently mounted a "sting" which netted a dozen or more firms for allegedly dispatching drink to juveniles.

The group lamhasts "Internet hootleggers" who, it says, are bypassing state laws by selling wine and beer to all comers, without checking their age. The companies, however, ask how rigorous they can reasonably be.

no more complicated than ordering a book or a plane ticket. A dozen or more casily accessible websites with names like Beer Across America, Virtual Vineyards, Wines from the West, tout their wares alongside

To comhat this threat from

sites advertising gourmet foods. chocolates and flowers.

Some companies require onscreen registration before processing the order, others provide an age box to tick. Most say they check the identity of the recipient when the goods are delivered - but watchful neighbours say delivery firms just leave the boxes on doorsteps. In practice, if a juvenile has his own (or a parent's)

credit card number and ticks the age box, there is little to stop him ordering, and receiving, whatever takes his fancy.

But this seemingly simple if undesirable - state of affairs, where 12 year-olds can order crates of beer by computer, conceals several layers of special interests. Internet vendors contend that very few juveniles order alcohol. They also charge

that the ARAA, which is partly funded by liquor wholesalers, is using the issue of under-age drinking to protect vested interests: the interests of the states (which control liquor licences and taxation) and those of the traditional wholesalers both of which stand to lose their cut if Internet trade expands.

All the forecasts suggest it will. Not only is buying by com-

puter convenient, especially for those who live outside major centres or in the many "dry" counties of the central and southern United States, but it is also financially advantageous to buy where state tax is low or nil.

Last summer, a group of mail order companies reached agreement with the state authorities to try to close the sales tax loophole, but the effort came to nothing:

a consumer outcry quashed it. With alcohol sales, some states have tried to protect their income. or their "dry" laws, by banning mail and computer-orders. But it is easier said than done.

age quite as clearly defined as it seems. Since 1988, following a series of drink-driving deaths publicised by the highly effec-

Summer daze: Lobbyists in the US have stepped up their campaign against drinking among under-age teenagers, who can now. order their beer via the

Photograph: American Graffiti

Against Drunk Drivers (Madd), the majority of US states have raised the legal drinking age from 18 to 21. This has created a situation where young men and women who have attained the legal age of majority, who may vote, marry, take out a mortgage and command a battery of credit cards, break the law if they buy a beer or drink a glass of wine in public,

The higher drinking age found public favour in a country where the shadow of Prohibitton still looms. But it is often flouted. This autumn, there was shock over the death from "binge" drinking of a student at the Massachussets Institute of Technology. And the drink-re-lated deaths since then of five students in Virginia prompted the state's attorney general, Richard Cullen, to ask whether a lower legal drinking age might encourage more responsible drinking.

 A spokeswoman for Tesco Nor is the legal drinking yesterday said that when people use its Internet service to buy wine, they must use either an ordinary credit card or a Tesco credit card and the holder of tive lobby group, Mothers such cards must be 18 or over.

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GI Jane and GI Joe don't mix, says Pentagon military inquiry

A high-powered civilian panel commissioned by the Pentagon to consider mixed-sex training in the US armed forces has concluded that the practice has harmed discipline and lowered standards. Mary Dejevsky, in Washington, reports on the reversals of a controversial policy

ago amid a flurry of sexual ha- There should also be imrassment cases in the military, proved instruction on "how said that initial basic training should be segregated.

It also advised that men and women be housed in separate barracks, not just on separate floors as is standard practice at present.

chaired by former Republican Senator, Nancy Kassebaum Baker, interviewed more than 2.000 recruits, drill instructors and supervisors. As well as calling for a return to separate baformation of all-women training units.

that mixed training had lowered standards, the panel demales and females should re- William Cohen, who is a late to each other professionally", it said, but current "no

The 11-member panel, guilty of making false accusations of sexual harassment or misconduct.

It did not, however, advocate the complete ending of mixed training. Men and women would still spend up to sic training, it proposed the 70 per cent of their time in mixed units, once basic training was complete. Training Accepting criticism voiced has been fully mixed in the hy some officers and recruits army and navy for the past four years, and in the air force since the Seventies. Only the manded tougher training and Marines stood out against the fitness requirements, with policy and continues to train "consistent" standards for male and female recruits sep-The panel, set up six months male and female recruits, arately, a policy which now ap-

The Defence Secretary, staunch supporter of mixed training in the armed forces, talk, no touch" guidelines said he was launching a sixshould be abolished. The pan-month consultation period on el's report also recommended the report's findings hefore severe punishments for those making a decision.



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11/POLITICS



Bare bones: William Hague (right) and his agriculture spokesman Michael Jack (left) at Smithfield market, London yesterday

Cunningham comes under attack from all sides

The Government's plan to ban beef on the bone had degenerated into complete shambles, it was claimed yesterday. Kim Sengupta and Fran Abrams see the new law come under fierce attack on its very first day.

It is not the first time that a minister's reputation had foundered on a food scare, as Edwina Currie could have told Jack Cunningham. Yesterday, the Agriculture Minister was facing scathing criticism of his handling of the latest episode of the BSE crisis from virtually all sides.

Some butchers openly declared they would flort the new law and continue to supply beef on the bone to customers who demand it. Environmental health officers who are supposed to police the errant butchers said the law could be "virtually

impossible to enforce". The farmers blame Dr Cunningham for damaging their livelihoods and have burned his effigy at

Yesterday, the minister flew back from Brussels into a gathering storm. He was also facing trouble with the European Union over his decision to ban beef imports which do not meet Britain's highest standards. Euro MPs are pressing for immediate legal action against Britain, arguing that one member state cannot invoke trade sanctions against

others without the approval of Brussels. In Britain, some butehers are determined to test and break the regulations. Ray Robinson of Burntwood, Walsall yesterday sold three T-bone steaks. He said he was prepared to he prosecuted rather

than stop selling cuts on the bone. Mr Robinson, 71, said: - This is not about money - I am fighting for a principle and I am prepared to go to court for the principle. I think it is taking personal liberty away to tell people what they can

Many butchers are "storing" the banned euts already paid for by the customers to be collected later. Under the new law, this is illegal. But Paul Hambling, from Rickmansworth. Herrfordshire declared: "If that's the case, then it is just too bad, I have got around 25 orders which have been paid for and will be collected for Christmas."

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health told the Commons' Agriculture Committee yesterday that even if its members found illegal beef on sale they would probably not be able to prosecute.

The only sure method of securing evidence for a conviction would be if an inspector was sold such meat, and this was 'negligible".

Ann Goodwin, the institute's Assistant Secretary said: "The regulations are a recipe for confusion and inconsistency" and officials complained they had not been "anything like adequately consulted" hy the Ministry of Agriculture. Fisheries and Food over the drafting of the law.

Wage Bill pushed ahead as Whitehall accused of low pay

The Government Bill to introduce the minimum wage was given a second reading in the Commons last night amid claims that some Whitehall departments were guilty of low payment to staff. Colin Brown , Chief Political Correspondent, says some Whitehall workers get as little as

Workers across Whitehall are being paid rates below the expected figure for the minimum wage, according to ministerial replies which were given as the legislation to stamp out low pay began its passage through the Commons.

£3.17 an hour.

David Chidgey, a Liberal Democrat spokesman, showed that 1.351 full-time employees earn between £3.17 and £4.39 an hour at the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions.

The Lord Chancellor's office under Lord Irvine employs 202 full-time staff on hourly rates ranging from £3.30 to £3.50.



Margaret Becket: Insists on a national minimum wage

EAKFAST FROM

About 25 full time staff at the Department of Education and Employment earn £3.59 an

The numbers of workers who are earning low pay are small, but the fact that low pay exists in Whitehall was being used by supporters of the low pay legislation as a lever to seek a higher minimum wage.

The Department of Health employs 106 full-time members of staff who are paid an hourly rate of £3.65, while 15 are paid between £3.66 and £3.75 an hour and 23 are paid up to £4.

Mr Chidgey said the figures showed that the introduction of a minimum wage could increase the Whitehall pay bill by £1.5m. While his estimate is open to question, it does not include the thousands on low pay in the NHS hospitals.

be seeking to amend the Bill during its committee stage to allow greater flexibility, but Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, insisted that the minimum wage should be applied as a national rate.

The figure will be recommended to the Government next May by the Low Pay Commission.

John Redwood, the Conservative spokesman for Trade and Industry, led the Tories in opposing the Bill as an attack on jobs. He said the hotel and catering industries estimated that 90,000 jobs would go in their area if the minimum wage were fixed at £4.26 an hour, and it would amount to 1 million job losses in the UK as a whole.

"The main winner from a minimum wage in the private sector will be the Treasury. The main losers will be those young, unskilled or disabled people looking for their first

Jason was eight when his parents were tragically killed in a car accident. His sisters were six and two. Coming to terms with the devastating loss of your parents is hard enough for anyone. But imagine having to deal with this terrible grief, at the same time as the prospect of being separated from your brother and sister.

Understandably, in this case the children became very unsettled at school and started playing up. Barnardo's found the children foster parents who were happy to give all the children a home together.

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Robinson faces official complaint

A formal complaint was lodged yesterday with Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. about Geoffrey Rohinson's non-disclosure of his interest in an offshore family trust.

Peter Lilley, the shadow Chancellor, said in a letter to Sir Gordon vesterday that he understood trusts did not always have close links with their beneficiaries.

But he argued that the connection between the Paymaster General and the Orion Trust was particularly close because of Mr Robinson's alleged influence over its share-having

One Labour source said last night that if Sir Gordon ruled that trusts should be registered by MPs, there would be no cause everylandy knew about his conflict of interest, and that, as trust now - but he said that such far as he is concerned, that is a ruling could force Conservative MPs to expose any trusts

that they might currently be the beneficiaries of. In his submission to Sir

Gordon, Mr Lilley cited a statement made by the minister's solicitors last week; that Mr Rohinson had no influence over the trust - something that had been contradicted in weekend newspaper interviews.

Mr Lilley also asked Sir Gordon if he would go beyond his Commons remit, and examine "the apparent conflict of interest between the Pavmaster's links with the Orion Trust and his ministerial responsibility for policy towards the taxation of such trusts".

Sir Gordon has already told Mr Lilley that he is unable to do that, as that is a matter for the Prime Minister - who has already ruled that Mr Robinson has done no wrong, there is no the end of the matter. — Anthony Bevins

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No apology to Australia's stolen generation

In spite of pressure from home and abroad, the Australian government has declined to apologise to the thousands of Aborigines known as the "stolen generation" who were taken from their mothers, many never to be reunited. Robert Milliken reports from Sydney on a wound that

It took seven months to happen, but, when it finally came yesterday, the one crucial word - sorry - was not there. The conservative coalition government, headed by John Howard,

wili not heal.

announced yesterday that it would pay A\$63m (£25m) 10wards reuniting divided Aboriginal families, setting up a national archive to trace devastated communities and preserving Aboriginal languages,

It was responding to a report last May of an inquiry into past practices of removing Aboriginal children from their families and placing them in white foster homes, practices that the report described as genocide and crimes against bumanity. But the government's response ignored the report's three key recommendations: that it make a formal apology, compensate the victims and inaugurate a "national sorry day" for the stolen generation.

The issue of the "stolen generation" is one of the most traumatic that Australians have Howard's government has faced in recent times. The inquiry by Sir Ronald Wilson, a former High Court judge, heard that babies and children suffered physical and sometimes sexual abuse in the foster bomes that were meant to offer them a better future.

Under the auspices of churches, and state and federal governments, the practices went on over 60 years, up to the 1960s, involving an estimated 100,000 children. The policy was based on the belief that the aboriginal race would eventually die out.

Over recent months, Mr Howard and Sir William Deane, the governor-general. have publicly made personal apologies for what happened to can't go forward unless there is

made it known that it will never make a formal, national apology because it fears opening the floodgates to litigation. One unnamed government pfficial was quoted in a Sydney newspaper last week suggesting that an apology was also inappropriate because 40 per cent of Australian citizens were not born there, and thus knew notbing about what went on in the past. The actual proportion of overseas-born Australians is about half this figure.

Aboriginal leaders such as Mick Dodson, the Aboriginal social justice commissioner. have derided such explanations as "mean-spirited excuses". He said yesterday: "We the "stolen generation". But Mr an apology. That's crucial."



Displaced: (left to right) Patrick Dodson sitting with his sisters Georgina Dodson and Fay Wade along with friend Charlie Yeeda. Charlie, Georgina and Fay were stolen from their parents at an early age

Malnutrition kills 6 million

Malnutrition contributes to more than half of child deaths worldwide, leaving millions of survivors crippled, vulnerable to illness and mentally disabled, Unicef said in a report released yesterday. Half the children in south Asia suffer from malnutrition. as well as a third of children in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the organisation's annual "State of the World's Children" report.

The report said that malnutrition played a role in 55 per cent of the nearly 12 million deaths each year of children under five in developing countries.

Cholera spreads in Nairobi
The death toll from a cholera outbreak in Nairobi's sprawling

slum areas has climbed to over 30, prompting fears of an epidemic. a health worker said yesterday. Jonah Kitheka, executive direcfor of the Kenyan non-governmental organisation Provide International, said a combination of heavy rains, a nurses' strike, poor infrastructure and apathy among the authorities bad made the outbreak the worst in over a decade. — Reuters, Nairobi

New Czech prime minister

Czech President Vaclav Havel will today appoint the central bank governor, Josef Tosovsky, as the country's new prime minister. Mr Havel said the administration which Mr Tosovsky would bead, and which would have a time-limited mandale, would seek a vote of confidence in parliament in January.

Power flash from TV cartoon

At least 311 young people were taken to hospitals in Japan yeslerday after watching a popular cartoon on television. Viewers complained of feeling ill, eye irritation and loss of vision after

The bospitalised viewers, ranging in age from 3 to 20, had been watching Pokemon, (Pocket Monsters), based on characters in a

Pope urged to steer clear of Holy Land

The Arab mayor of Bethlehem, himself a Roman Catholic, yesterday urged Pope John Paul not to make a millennium pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 200t), when 5 million Christians are expected to visit the sites associated with the birth, life and death of Jesus.

"I would not advise His Holiness to come while East Jerusalem is still under Israeli rule." Mayor Hanna Nasser to Jerusalem, he can't come to Bethlehem either."

Mr Nasser distinguished hetween the Pope and leaders of other churches. The Pope, he emphasised, was a head of state as well as the head of the Roman church. To visit the city would be to endorse the Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem, conquered in the 1967 war. which the Palestinians aspire to establish as their capital.

The mayor made clear, however, that he was not discouraging heads of other churches. Both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Russian Orthodox patriarch have indicated a wish to lead pilgrim groups.

Whatever happens to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, Israel remains determined not to yield on Jerusalem. The Foreign Ministry spokesman, Aviv Shiron, reiterated yesterday: "United Jerusalem was and is the ancient capital of the Jewish people and the state of Israel. That's how it is, and that's how it's going to be."

Bethlehem, which next week celebrates its third Christmas under Palestinian rule, is planning a big lacelift for the millennium. The mayor aims to raise \$170m (£105m) from an international appeal that will be launched in Brussels next March. A total of \$67m has already heen pledged.

— Eric Silver, Bethlehem

seeing one of the cartoon characters flasb its eyes. video game produced by Nimendo Co.

> Humans catch 'bird flu' from each other

The Hong Kong government yesterday announced a new and worrying development in the spread of the "chicken flu" virus which threatens to turn into a pandemic. It appears that the virus can be spread from bumans to humans, not just from poultry to bumans.

The implication of this finding is that it would make the virus, known as H5N1, more likely to spread quickly in comtold reporters. "If he can't come munities where infection from poultry has taken hold.

The two latest victims of the virus are a two-year-old boy and a three-and-a-half year old girl who were living in the same house as a five-year-old girl who is still in hospital being treated for bird flu. The Hong Kong authorities

say that further tests are needed to confirm whether human to human transmission is a typical characteristic of the virus.

Nevertheless, additional monitoring and preventive measures were announced yesterday both to protect Hong Kong people and prevent the spread of bird flu overseas. Both the World Health Organisation and the American-based Centres for Disease Control are working closely with the Hong Kong authorities.

Two people have so far died of chicken flu related illnesses. another seven victims have been identified.

- Stephen Vines, Hong Kong





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13/DESPATCHES

Muscovites learn the rules and rewards of trolley warfare

The first ever hypermarket in the former Soviet Union has opened in Moscow. As our correspondent reports, it symbolises the changing priorities of post-Communist Russia. While the city's polling booths were empty for municipal elections, the aisles were packed.

The blue Lada in front rams ioto an errant shopping trolley and shuots it impatiently out of the way. Fair enough. With temperatures cold enough to freeze your nostril hair, only a fool would get out of the car any more often than necessary.

Inside the store - a huge white and almost windowless concrete block not far from Boris Yeltsin's city residence there is a jam to rival Oxford Street in the January sales. Thousands of fur-clad men and women hump, barge, and crash their way around the aisles.

Fruit and veg looks like the North Circular on a Monday morning. There is a scrum at frozen meats, and you cannot sce dried fruit for a wall of furry backs. It is a battle in mime: when the piped pop music stops, almost no one is speaking. The hush of concentrating minds fills the shop floor.

adulis Names

Minthly TV (anti-

Twenty-thousand people visited Ramstore last Sunday, a \$34m (£21.25m) Turkishfinanced venture in south-west Moscow that glories in the status of the former Soviet Union's first genuine hypermarket and shopping centre. Admittedly, the management says that an astonishing 12,000 of them were sightseeing, but that is understandable in a city where the average salary is officially under \$300 (£187.50) a month. The crowd remains formidable by any standards.

shopping weather. Temperatures hovered around -20C before plunging even lower, prompting the authorities to ban small children from going to school. On the same day, the city held municipal elections which could have been nullified, such was the miserly turnout. About 29 per cent (4 per cent above the legal minimum) voted.

But the weather did not dampen the curiosity of Muscovites wheo it came to inspecting the dubious pleasures of consumerism. All day they tramped up and down the hill from the metro station. Clearly, the lure of the market economy outclassed the appeal of taking part in an already widely discredited, obscure, and largely symbolic, democratic ritual.

The last few years have spawned supermarkets across Moscow, but they are hardly ever crowded. Something of the

BY PHIL **REEVES**

atmosphere of the old Soviet system, in which there were special shops full of imported goods for the party top hrass and diplomats, still survives. Omnipresent guards in military uniforms and scandalously high prices usually deter all but the newly wealthy and foreigners. Most Russians shop in the open-air markets, where prices depend on an ability to haggle. or in the dank, malodorous, gloom of "gastronoms" - broken down. Soviet-era stores

that used to he state-run. In the latter, shopping is about as pleasurable as a trip to the social security offices. You chose your item, note down the price, queue at a

For a start, it was scarcely receipt, and return to collect your goods. Abacuses remaio common. Credit cards are worthless. Customer service is

> When Ramstore opened last month, its managers discovered they had an unusual task on their hands. They had to teach Russians how to hyper-shop.

At first, their customers peeled price tags off the goods, and took them to the cashiers, just as in gastronoms. Plastic bags in Russia are still treated as precious; if they have any at all, market stall owners can rarely be persuaded to part with them without a fee. Unaware that here they were free in limitless numbers, Russians brought their own baskets, adding to the crush. "Our customers were just oot familiar with this type of shopping," said Aziz Bulgu, the store's general director. Nor, initially, were the staff. "We had a little problem as first," he admitted. "But now they say 'spasibo' and smile."

But the biggest surprise is the top-selling item. Mr Bulgu's computer-print out reveals that it is not vodka, or hread, or sausage, or chocolate - or any other of the standard fixtures on a Russian dinner table. Bananas, by far, take the biscuit, as it were. Having only been able to buy them for some four years - and because they are cheap - Muscovites buy them by the bagful. Last week, Ramstore was shifting more than five tons a day.

What conclusions can we draw? It is no longer realistic to deny that the market economy is advancing in parts of Russia, albeit largely in the capital. Muscovites - who 10 years ago would stand all night in queues for products - are no less unwilling to consume than anyone else, if they have the money.

For Mr Bulgu, the lesson is as clear as the red stars that shine from the Kremlin: "I must expand as quickly as possible, before the competition cashier's to pay in return for a arrives," he said happily.



Shock treatment: A man plunging yesterday into Lake Komsomolskoye in Minsk, where it was -25C

Photograph: Vasily Fedosenko

Even wrapping up against the cold can kill

Russia is experiencing its coldest winter for half a century. As Phil Reeves reports, it is causing chaos.

Children under 11 have been ordered not to go to school. Metal cables that power Moscow's trolley huses have frozen and snapped. Hundreds of people have been treated for frostbite and hypothermia and one person has been killed by a falling icicle.

Few nations are more hardened to hostile weather than Russia, whose .

this tough country is struggling against a cold snap that has sent the mercury plunging to -32C in Moscow, freezing to death five people in one night.

There has been no repetition, officials say, of an incident on New Year's Eve several years ago when a woman had to be cut out of her frezen nylon stockings. But problems there have been aplenty. The last time the capital had such cold weather was in 1940, when temperatures hit an alltime low of -42.2C. Since then car ownership has risen, but driving skills have not. Of 25 people run over in Moscow during this cold snap, police deep chill wrecked Napoleon's army attribute 17 to the amount of clothand kept the Nazis at bay. But even ing worn by drivers - who can barely

wearing pedestrians with their earflaps down.

Russians are no less fascinated than the British by their climate. This month the magazine Stolitsa devoted an article to the subject which included the claim that in the winter more people die in their cars having sex. This, the author alleged, is because they leave their engines running to keep warm, killing themselves with carbon monoxide.

More plausibly, the magazine also revealed that the women who run Moscow's street stalls wear up to four pairs of underpants to keep out frost-

move behind the wheel - and the bite. One of the products that the hearing difficulties of fur-hat- women were selling yesterday was ice eream, which Russians cat in any weather, despite their conviction that cold drinks give you a cold. While they continued to work despite the weather, so did the widely loathed traffic police who carried on flagging down cars for fines or bribes.

> The police can expect to be busy in the spring. When the snow melts each year, they find the corpses of homeless or drunk people who are among the dozens who freeze to death in the open air. These, in the grim argot of the force, are known as "snowdrops". This year is certain to be no



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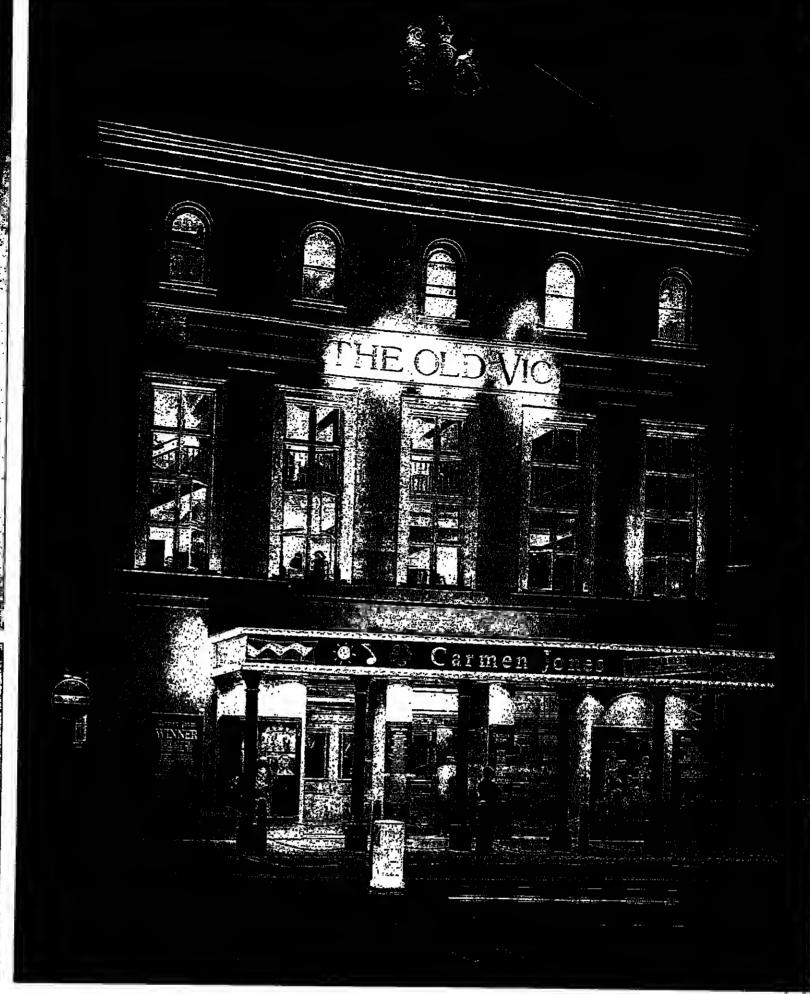


COMPUTER SYSTEMS

12. The maintenance of mounts have rough the replaced at \$12.50 per mounth thereafter A further 6 mounts line rental can be channel and 12 mounths connection. Written details will be sent on request.







The Old Vic is up for sale - and, with it, the site that is home to the National Theatre Studio, hothouse of new writing talent, like that of comedian Patrick Marber (top left), whose poker-faced theatre debut 'Dealer's Choice' (inset below) was workshopped there, and regular stamping-ground for such theatrical gurus as Peter Brook (bottom left) Photographs: Geraint Lewis. (Marber, Brook), Hugo Glendinning (Dealer's Choice)

For sale: one prime location with dramatic prospects

mark, when you consider what

part of the property, ie the vast

annexe that crouches over the

THE INDEPENDENT

Stuck for ideas this Christmas...? WIN a Hewlett Packard Pavilion 3130 Multimedia home PC, Microsoft software bundle and £150 to spend on



Why not take it easy and order on www.e-christmas.com, which brings the finest shops across the UK and Europe into your living room via your PC.

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We have two Pavilion 3130 Multimedia PCs to win. Each comes with a 200MHz Intel MMX Pendiam processor, 16M2's 5D RAM, 2GB's hard disk, 16 speed CD-ROM player, super fast modem for quick internet access, Windows 95 keyboard and 15° monitor with stereo speakers.

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The future of the Old Vic site hangs in the balance. Sealed bids are on the table, but hidden beneath the headlines is an untold story.

Whoever buys it will also decide the fate of the National Theatre's jewel in the crown: its Studio. David Benedict investigates.

Bloody but unbowed, Sir Peter Hall is scouring London for a new home for his repertory company. His much-vaunted scheme to rejuvenate Lilian Baylis's beloved Old Vic by presenting a healthy mix of classics and new plays foundered within a year. According to the story that was bruited abroad when he began his adventure, Ed and David Mirvish, the theatre's Canadian owners, told him that he didn't need to make money. They were not, however, in the business of losing it hand over fist. Less than a year in, they pulled the plug and put the

theatre up for sale. Before anyone leaps to the is up for sale. conclusion that these guys must

be a pair of money-grabbing philistines, it should be pointed out that, since they bought the theatre in 1982, the Vic has enjoyed its successes, but it has also been dark for long periods. Significantly for Hall's brave reign, Jonathan Miller's now famous Classics season (which launched the careers of Richard Jones, Alex Jennings and countless others) resulted in critical triumphs but financial disaster. As Lady Bracknell (almost) said, "To lose one investment could be regarded as a misfortune. To lose both looks like second-in-command; but, for carelessness." Careless the Mirvishes were not. The word

"philanthropic" is nearer the formally withdrawn his hid. At As Higginson sagely observes: residencies in Lithuania, South the end of last week, a New-"I'm sure there are men with they did with the less famous castle industrialist allegedly hulldozers who are very intercame into the frame with plans ested in a prime site." A comto create a London home for mercial buyer could quite both the D'Oyly Carte and the sensibly fund plans for the actors. But the thrust of the Stu-English Shakespeare Company theatre by demolishing the an-

Old Vic box-office across the road from the theatre itself. Since 1984, this slab of Fifties functionalism has housed the National Theatre Studio, the are mere speculation. What re-only guarantee the National has pole-vaulted the likes of Sarah

and future. It's the nerve-centre where writers, directors and actors dream, plan and develop new ideas, hone their craft and learn new skills and is. quite simply, invaluable. Everyone you can think of, from Peter Brook to Patrick Marber (and plenty you have yet to hear about), has led or taken part in workshops or been a writer-in-residence there. Astonishingly, the Studio has occupied this enormous three-storey site (plus basement) completely

with the Old Vic, the annexe too

There has been a striking lack of industry gossip about possible purchasers. In a breathless News of the Worldstyle exclusive, the trade paper The Stage announced that the club-owner Alan Whitehead planned to turn the 1,000-seat theatre into London's first lapdancing venue. Then, 12 days The property, complete with a ago, the Studio's director Sue Higginson was surprised to see Lord Lloyd-Webber peering tell you, the three things to conthrough the door to her sider when having property are: office, asking if he could look round the building. His visit was - and the Old Vic site is hot. swiftly followed by one from his Webber is now believed to have and have already been sold on.

but, with sealed bids submitted nexe for development, leaving weeks ago, such press reports the Studio out on the street. The Court Upstairs season, which

shy, unheralded heart of the National's present

rent-free. But the gravy train is mains a matter of worrying fact about to hit the buffers; together is that none of the interested parties has yet announced what they will do with the Studio.

Desperate to secure its future, the National Theatre board has submitted a bid for the annexe alone, but the site may well not be sold separately. Moreover, the RNT's bid is hased on a "current usage" valuation rather than on the site's worth in development terms. highly useful car-park, is unlisted. Worse still, as anyone will location, location and location

Waterloo has been reborn in the past few years: restaurants reasons unknown. Lloyd- have sprung up, made a killing

is a four-month notice period. In terms of mounting a survival campaign, the Studio is a victim of its low profile. The work that goes on there is

about process, not product, ft is privately funded and thus free I said, 'What, Memopuly monof the pressure of having to achieve "results". Developmental and experimental in the widest sense, its work isn't obviously newsworthy and, outside the confines of the profession, remains an untold story. Higginson sees the Studio as cond of a two-week improvisa-

an oxygen-supplier to the NT's lifeblood, not a luxury, some haphazard organisation in which artists fool around with and saw what was really the first deputies oversee 22 projects a kept clicking his fingers beyear, with a total budget of tween scenes and we thought, E40(LIMIL Teams of actors, di- God, this is so annoying.

Africa and Edinburgh, and last week saw Barrie Rutter working on an unperformed Dryden drama with a company of Asian dio's work is new writing. The extraordinary 1994-95 Royal

Kane. Joe Penhall, Judy Upton, Nick Grosso and Judith Johnson into the theatrical stratosphere Daldry's name as a playwriting entrepreneur, was in fact coproduced with the dio, which runs relays of writers on eightweek residencies.

The hest illustration of the seed-hed approach is the case of Patrick Marber, alternative comedian turned prize-winning playwright. His agent persuaded Higginson

to see him doing stand-up. Fascinated, she invited him in for a cup of tea and a chat. "I thought, we have to work with him, so I asked how and he said he'd like to run a poker school. ey?' and lie replied. No. real poker players, real money.' I said. 'Not in my studio vou're not.' What became apparent was that he had a play lurking school, we're here for the proaround in him but didn't know fession. All those elements quite how to get it out. So at the tion workshop, he asked if I wanted to see what they'd been loves us. The National's board doing. About five of us went in act of Dealer's Choice, Patrick

we can see that this is a kitchen and then this is a restaurant? We were so sucked into it we'd completely forgotten it was all improvised and he was just bringing the scene to a close. That was how it started."

*** 20.00

Of course, this is not the only place where writers develop ideas, but it's rare to find an organisation that can then place scripts in production not just at the National but at theatres across the country. The Studio is unique in its breadth and and made Stephen scope: Theatre de Complicite's early shows, and its internationally successful Street of Crocodiles, all began life there; singers from ENO's Contem-National Theatre Stu-porary Opera Studio regularly go there to learn acting techniques; a musical adaptation of Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory is currently under development there.

"Frankly, it's driving me

nuts," sighs Higginson of the Studio's uncertain future. Forced to play the waiting game, she has frozen all future work beyond February. She is facing the hard fact that the National Theatre Studio is a complete anomaly. "We're privately funded, yet we're part of a hig national company. We have our own building but, hey, we don't have to earn any money from box-office or produce any work for people to assess in order to justify our existence. We train but we're not a training make us very, very unusual."

She smiles and shrugs. "It's barribly boring. Trevor Num lives us. The Mirvishes have been fantastically good... It would just be a pity if we had to. go." That remark clinches it: the 1997 Understatement of the rectors and teachers have done Doesn't he realise that of course Theatre Studio's Sue Higginson. Year Award goes to the National

Myeen the letop shelf

15/FASHION

Men, they just don't get it, do they?









Underwire pistachio lace bra, £31, and lace knickers, £25, by Huit, available from Bentalls, Kingston on Thames, and branches nationwide. Stockist enquiries:

2 White pack-of-three camisoles, £12; pack-of-three highcut knickers, £9, all by Muji, 27 Oxford Street, London WI and branches nationwide. Stockist enquiries: 0171-323 2208

3 Nude underwire bra, £16.00; hlgh-leg knickers, £9.00, afl by Warner. Available from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London WI, Dickins and Jones, Regent Street, London WI, other House of Fraser stores and major department stores. Stockist enquiries: 0115 979 5796

4 Black firework underwire bra, £50; firework brief, £25; and firework suspender, £30, all by Agent Provocateur, 6 Broadwick Street, London WI and I6 Pont Street, London SW1. Mail-order: 01483 204469; stockist enquiries: 0171 -439 D229

Stylist: Charlie Harrington Hair and Make-up: Alex Babsky at Mandy Coakley Model: Natasha Elms at Select

for women. What a business. Mostly they are either painfully embarrassed or painfully

wrong. How do you do better? Allow our Ms Blanchard to assist you. Photographs by Sheridan Morley.

Men buying underwear

"You feel like such a pervert." That seems to he the consensus of the men I talked to on the subject of buying underwear for the women in their life. huggers, they're all the same to Men, it seems, have only just most men. And the mere mencome to terms with the buying of their own underwear, so it is hardly surprising that they feel M&S is staring at them as they the guy replies, without more are

er set, hlushing the closer they get to the counter. They might as well be wearing the damn things, they are so embarrassed. The whole act of buying women's underwear is thoroughly unpleasant," adds one "People always think you are buying it for yourself."

One of the main problems for men in search of a little bit of naughty luxury is that they cannot trust their own judgment. About anything. When it comes to cup sizes, colour or style of knicker, they are clueless. Tangas, G-strings or hip huggers, they're all the same to tion of the word "gusset" brings "What size is the lady?" asks the as though the entire queue at assistant. "Oh, about your size,"

clutch their lacy bra and knick- than a second glance or indeed a pause to compare the size of his elephantine partner with this waifish young woman who is ringing up "A" cups and size small smalls as he speaks.

A few years ago, there was little room between the plain hapless underwear shopper. and practical (Jockey, Hanro or Calvin Klein) and the tawdry and tacky (Ann Summers). These days, however, the lingerie market has boomed. Little boutiques specialising in luxurious lace confections are springing up from Mayfair to

Covent Garden. Agent Provocateur, the label set up by Joe Corre and Serena Rees three years ago selling saucy underwear and fluffy slippers, has spread its wings and them out in a cold sweat. expanded from sleazy Soho to upmarket Knightsbridge.

labels like the French brand Huit specialising in underwear that is feminine and pretty without going over the top with ribbons, bows and ruffles. These are scants that are practical as well as pleasing to the eye, a balance that is surprisingly difficult to achieve. Shapes are sporty

with halter-neck bras, detach-

able straps and seamless hras.

hut in powder puff blue, mint

green or hright vellow. Another practical option and part of any model's kit of essentials - is nude underwear. All the major underwear companies make lingerie that looks invisible and has as few seams and lines as possible. Men hate them. They say they look like surgical appliances. Perhaps

they do, but they are the closest thing to wearing nothing

under your clothes, but with all the support of more heavy-duty underwear.

When women buy underwear for their girlfriends, either platonic or otherwise, they usually opt for something plain, simple and conton. Men could take note and save themselves a lot of embarrassment. No frills, no fuss, just a sporty hraor a pair of knickers that have a wide clastic waistband, or a comfortable look, usually in black, white or grey, and veering towards the masculine side of underwear.

Muji make good quality, minimal camisules and knickers that have no trills whatsoever but are less brutal than a pair of Jockeys. And you really won't feel like a pervert waiting in the queue.

HOW TO GET IT RIGHT IN THE LINGERIE DEPARTMENT

into a lingerie department or specialised store, become a Peeping Tom. Take a look into your loved one's underwear drawer, find her favourite bra and check the size. Then look at the knickers and do the same.

2. While practising the Peeping Tom routine, it's worth checking the preferred colours, shapes and styles. Ask yourself: is it underwired or not? Are there G-strings, or hip-huggers? Control panels? Lace? Corton? Black, white, red pistachio or cream?

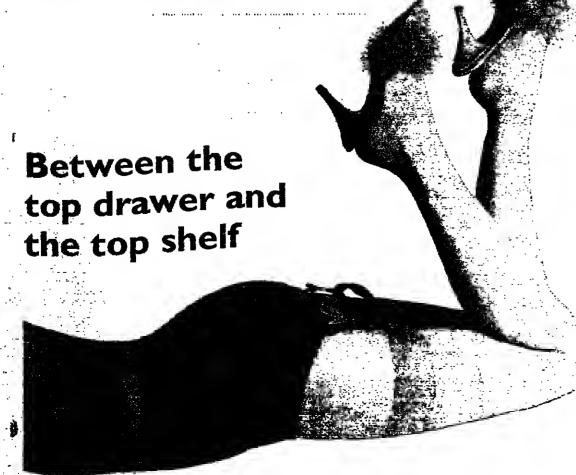
 Before even stepping 3. Armed with this knowledge, decide what style of mother. underwear to go for. Remember, it's got to he spc- 5. The final option is the cial, so basic cotton briefs, (unless they are by Hanro) are not advisable. Think about what will make her feel sexy, not what you think is sexy. The two may be very £75 and £100. The recipient

high-leg knickers and a ates or enhances the cleavage. It's not teeny weeny wises of chiffon, with no support and little comfort.

an impartial attitude shop- £200.

ping - not your secretary or

easy way out, but it will also go down a treat. Luxury lingerie store Rigby & Peller offer gift vouchers, at dcnominations of £25, £50, different. Sexy is black lace can visit the store at any time, have a specialised bra matching bra which cre- fitting and buy the underwear of her choice. It's all gorgeous, and a correctly fitted bra does wonders for the bust line. A good bra costs about £75, a made-to-4. Take a female friend with measure hra costs from



Joe Corre is famous for two things: his punk parents and his underwear emporium, Agent Provocateur.

Here he tells us why he is so interested in ladies' knickers.

When our first shop opened three years ago in Broadwick Street, Soho, it looked just as I had expected it to. However, the personal sense of than I had expected. This was en-

tirely due to the reaction we received from the public. Typical responses were, "Funtastic, finally someone has opened the shop I have always been looking for," or "I just popped in to say I Love You!" In addition, we also had people spit on the window whilst ranting Christian ethics at us. The

portant to me was that each and every decision made in creating Agent Provocateur was a personal one, with the sole aim of trying to create a personal, sexy, fantasy environment and then share it with the public. This in itself is in stark contrast with the usual mathematical marketing process by which most businesses open. It is what makes the difference between a personal experience, where the customer has some empathy with the creator, or achievement was far more intense. a mass impersonal experience that one would find on the high street.

I have been asked many times why t got involved in ladies underwear. The truth is that I love women and their pure sexual femininity. Once a lady came to my shop to return a gift that had been given to her by a male friend. She said she had to return it because she was a feminist and was therefore unable to wear sexy unreason that these reactions were im- derwear!

What a shame that she did not understand the power and advantage that lies in being different to a man instead of either trying to be the same as men or simply opting to have Growing up, I don't remember

any particular interest in ladies underwear although I was surrounded to an extent by sexual imagery. I suppose the carliest time I can rememher being interested in knickers was when I was about 10 years old, riding in the back of Steve Jones's car (Sex Pistols guitarist). He used to collect the knickers from all the girls he had slept with which were stuffed in every crevice. I remember pulling out this pair of leopard-skin knickers which I promptly put in my pocket and nicked because they were so exotic and interested my curiosity so much.

wear in that you need different order, ring 01483 268888

looks for different occasions, always bearing in mind, however, that sex could be on the agenda.

When we design our collections, we think about creating garments that have an effect in shaping a more feminine silhouette. We also experiment a lot with colour and fabric. But we never base decisions on what is commercial or trendy, only on what we think makes a woman look more sexy. I cannot sell things I do not per-

Seam and heel stockings, £8; fishnet stockings, £8; sheer knickers with suspenders, £25: maribou mules, £55, all from I think underwear is like outer- Agent Provocateur. For mail-

BELOVED AND BONK

Diary of a divorce

The thing everybody says to you when you're dumped is "you'llfind-someone-else". It becomes the conclusion to every conversation and every expression of sympathy. When you hear that little mantra you feel like a recent amputee being told that they will grow new legs. It's just an impossibility. And, like every other emotional amputee. I felt my limbs were gone forever when Beloved left me. Sure I could master pretty serviceable walking on a pair of wooden legs - but I'd never dance.

That was last month. Now I'm contemplating learning the Pasa Doble and Gymnastic Disco. I've sprouted new legs, the only problem is that having grown so fast and so long they still wohbic a little.

The snag with Bolts From The Blue such as the one which hit me and VNC (my new Very Nice Chap) is that there isn't any preliminary mucking about to break you in to being balf of a pair. No tentative courting, no gentle dawning of affec-tion over the course of umpteen visits to the cinema and a bit of hand-holding over a dinner table. You can't pretend, you can't play hard to get. You just have to cope with the fact that you are suddenly connected at some profound level with a person who you have only just met. You know what their innermost thoughts are, you know the song they are singing in their head (it's the same as the one in yours: Bangles "If She Knew What She Wants"), but you don't know if they listen to Radio 4 at breakfast or how to spell their surname. And it's all a bit of a

The most scary part of course is that the stakes are so high. This isn't like falling in love at 16 with no responsibilities beyond getting your homework done and remembering to feed your hamster. VNC can't be a little escapist fun because I have two kids, sundry animals and a mortgage resting on my back and I can't afford to fall over. And with all those attachments I'm certainly not a merty little fling for VNC. It's potentially Very Serious. We should be taking things Very Slowly and Carefully. But that's impossible with Bolts From The Blue. You just have to get on with it.

So in the interests of getting Buster and Bunny used to the newly-joined pair of socks that is me and VNC we took a huge plunge and all went to France for the weekend. The dynamics of this situation were of course potentially horrific. Buster and Bunny, in addition to vying with each other for my attention, now perceived another competitor in VNC. 1, of course, wanted to lavish attention on him without any interference from them. Poor VNC meanwhile, having never had children, had no idea

of the hotbed of vice and intrigue into which be had fallen.
When it comes to baptisms of fire, our weekend in Honfleur was hot enough to hard-glaze stoneware. Bunny and Buster kept up a constant interchange of violence and insult from the moment we got on the ferry. Bunny sulked right the way through a meal in the best restaurant in town, creating an atmosphere akin to that in the antercoms of the electric chair. Buster gave full expression to his Celtic temper, throwing various objects across the botel room whenever be lost at cards. This gave me the necessary light-the-blue-touch-paper stimulus to show who he inherited it from. Both of them managed to knock on our bedroom door at extremely crucial moments during the night with requests to solve entirely spurious problems, lost socks, phantom tummy, TV shows being broadcast in French.

And then driving bome from Portsmouth, at half past eleven at night on a godforsaken bit of road in the pouring rain, the clutch went on my car. We were transported home in the back of a truck with Bunny pinning VNC into a particularly nasty Yoga position with her dead sleeping weight.

If ever a lightning bolt was going to go a bit flaccid and impotent in the face of the cold splash of imperfect reality it was during those three days. But it didn't. In fact the magic blue fire spilled over a little on to the kids and there were moments when all four of us were outlined in its neon: VNC and Busler pretending to abscond with the praline and truffles we'd just bought from the chocolarier; playing charades over croissants in a cafe; deliberately crashing our dodgems into each other on a night cold enough to freeze Hell.

No doubt about it. Fate's done it's work. We just need to catch up with it.

THE INDEPENDENT

CARBON MONOXIDE - The hidden danger

Stevie Mnrgan

In Fitzrovia, a young woman savours the new aromatherapy



A good cigar is a celestial indulgence rarely seen. Squeezed out by economic sanity and offactory puritanism it has become a lost pleasure, But in London's West End

Nicole Veash sniffs something in the air: the rich perfume of Havana.

A pinstriped suit. maximum decolletage and a huge Havana cigar. Is this the very image of Girl Power for the millennium? The smart money says no, for that was Ginger Spice at the Spice World movie premiere on Tuesday night, and the smart may not lie ahead.

But in much less time than it takes to enjoy a decent Havana, you can cross Soho to a smokes eigars. "They think I am place where Sybil Gosselin has being deliberately vampish.

seen the future: it involves lots of women and it smokes - in heavy, aromatic swirls.

Earlier this year we were homharded with images of Ctaudia Schiffer, Demi Moore and even the health-conscious Madonna, puffing on fat Havanas, and that provoked (or refleeted) a great explosion of cigar hars in New York. Two months ago, in what used to be the White Tower, a rather regal Greek restaurant where Princess Margaret has been known to dinc. Gosselin opened the Number One Cigar Club of London, and invited in the city boys and girls who always hankered for a Havana.

Sybaritically smoking in our photograph is Christina Gra-Syears old, enjoying the pleasures of her club. She is at ease though she says that pcople definitely stare when she

And needless to say, when eigars are offered around after a dinner I am almost always left out. People assume as a girl you just don't smoke them."

But Sybil Gosselia is an emancipator: "I know from experience that the taste appeals not only to the male palate. That's why I am trying to encourage women to try cigars. Cigar smoking is one of the good things in life. It is like discovering a fine wine.

Above, the lady is a smoker - Christina Graham at her club. Left, the lady is a vamp - Ginger Spice needs a light. Main photograph: John Voos, Photograph: PA News

than 100 people, including 25 of our most popular brands." women, have joined and Sybil hopes that they will bave 600 members by the end of the next year. But a virgin smoker does bership. The place is also a bar and restaurant. "Some people genuinely want to try and acjoin because it is fashionable," sbe says. There are 100 types of named Romeo y Julieta.

"We buy all our cigars from Hunters and Frankau, one of the oldest eigar importers in the did she ever smoke it? country," says Sybil. "When ahout 800 cigars in all. I would W7. Tel: 0171-636 8141

Since the club opened, more recommend you start with one Cigars may be ber passion

hut shipping is Sybil Gosselin's main business. "I go to Cuba several times a year for my not bave to commit to mem- tanker business and I just couldn't help being enticed by the idea of cigars. And the more I tried them, the more I realised quire a taste for cigars, others I loved the taste." From early on Sybil took her cigar smoking seriously. "It started as a cigar on offer, from fat Monte
Cristos to lorpedo-shaped Cohibas and the romantically

although this is still a sideline for me.'

As for Ginger Spice: we e her holding the cigar. But

you take into account different The No. 1 Cigar Club of Lonhrands and sizes, there are don, I Percy Street, London 4. 47.00

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Property.

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Celebrate advent and cavort for the full moon

There are many ways to celebrate the glories of midwinter and feel the spirit of the Lord or just feel the spirit. Rob Stepney sees Reverend Geraint ap lorwerth do most of them.

It is the night of the Yuletide full moon, and in celebration a circle dance is in full rotation in the church hall of the mid-Wales village of Pennal. The Reverend Geraint ap Jorwcrih, the local rector, is an enthusiastic participani - despite the fact that the inspiration for this ritual is entirely pagan.

The day had been still and raw, the ribbons of smoke from the small cottage chimneys barely lifting off the valley floor. Just before the dance bepearance, veiled by high cloud. but undeniable. Stepping out with the best of them, ap Iorwerth was pleased to celebrate her splendour, the cycle of the seasons and the power of nature in a series of dances which drew on pre-Christian. Hindu and Jewish traditions.

"I believe in and celebrate all the festivals of the Anglican calendar," says an lorwerth. But his wider philosophy is to encourage any decent-hearted spirituality, whatever its wellsprings, and especially if it includes an element of what his forthcoming book Honest to Goddess will call the "divine feminine", in worship. And by this he means to emphasise intuition, intimacy, feeling and the wisdom present in all religions and spiritual paths.

In her brief introduction to the dance. Claire Jenkins speaks of the unity of creation. the healing power of love and the energy that through us can link the earth and the heavens. Clearly, none of these ideas is though some would say hereti-

alien to the Anglican Church. But the context in which they are expressed would not be easily recogniscd.

The 25 circle dancers are drawn from a range of faiths and none. There are Buddhists, elders from the Quaker movement, adherents of a New Age meditation group, Christians and those of a pagan persuasion who would never set foot in the church, but for whom this church halt is neutral ground.

cal theologian of the Orthodox lact people in a way that is am happy with Him'. And that faith. On each wall of the rectory itself is a Green Man representing the fecundity of vegetation. And the village Church of St Peter ad Vincula, which has seen the celebration of a Sbinto wedding with a Buddha placed on the altar, gives space to the sacred texts of all the major world religions.

Pennal is a small community where south and north Wales meet, and that is a fautuline deeper and more open. It is not the same as in Wokingham." Liz Butler, a teacher from

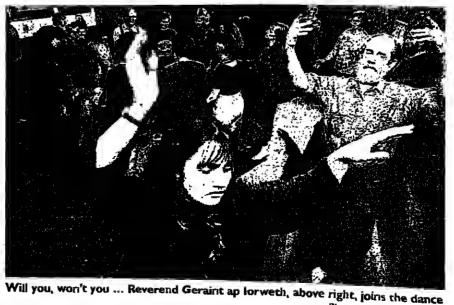
Machynlleth, at a circle dance for the first time, was broadly approving of the efforts to find common ground between very different approaches to spirituality. "All religions have a way to God. For us. Christianity is the one. But as far as possible. we should worship together."

is fair enough," ap Iorwerth commences. "From the other side there are probably also Mother Goddess fundamentalists who object to her being christianised." And no one knows what the Anglican hierarchy will make of the publication of Honest to Goddess. which bas a title chosen to evoke memories of Bishop Robinson's Honest to God which rocked the C of E wben it appeared in the Sixties. But, ap forwerth believes, there is no alternative to building bridges.

The question of whether the conventional Anglican church is dying evokes a wry smile. "It is already dead.". he says. "With only 2 per cent of the population regular communicants, it is on the verge of meeting the American definition of a cult.

"But the decline of conventional religion does not mean there is no spirituality. Somewhere in the Universe is a source which transmutes suffering and pain, and the mystery of what it is to be human can never be adequately explained by reason alone. We need a symbolic way of perceiving ourselves and our world. The soul needs images to breathe and grow, and it is that need which drives all the

Ap Jorwerth's hope is that the church hierarchy will support ecumenical work in Pennal - even if that work extends interdenominational co-operation into more general support saying they want their proper- for a contemplative lifestyle and all aspects of spiritual quest. And why not? A Centre of Alternative Spirituality would nicely complement the Centre for Alternative Technology five miles up the road which, for those seeking new approaches to old problems, has already put this part of Wales on the map.



Photograph. Steve Peake

What has brought them together is a shared need for celchration and community, and a broad-mindedness which ap lorwerth has done much to en-

The edectic spirituality of the place is evident as you drive down the Dyfi valley from Machynlleth. Entering Pennal, visitors are greeted by the large circled cross of Celtic Christianity in the Rectory garden. Next to it is an informal chapel in a Russian style which contains a memorial altar screen to Bulgakov, who was a prominent which, historically, has been almost as quake-prone as any border between the English and Welsh. But it was also a site of reconciliation when Owain Glyndwr hrought together the splintered factions of his homeland and was declared Prince of

a free Wales in the 1400s. It is bringing together which Geraint ap lorwerth is keen to foster. Aided by the spirit of the place, he seems to be succeeding. As Bernard Condron, once a mechanical engineer in Berkshire, says: You do change when you come to the valley, You lose your cynicism and con-

the Bulgakov screen and several icons, have sent a sniffy letter ty back because they do not like to he associated with the "unorthodox presentation of Christianity" encountered on a visit.

There are Christians in the valley who feel something similar and have chosen to worship in other churches nearby. "They say Twe got my Jesus and

Yet not everyone is content

with the way the Pennal church

has developed in ap-forwerth's

17 years as rector. The Oxford-

hased Fellowship of St Alhan

and St Sergius, who loaned him

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Daphne Fielding

Daphne Winifred Louise Vivian, writer; born II July 1904; married 1926 Viscount Weymouth (succeeded 1946 as south Marquess of Bath, died 1992; two sons, and two sons and one daughter deceased; marriage dissolved 1953), 1953 Xan Fielding (died 1991; marriage dissolved 1978); died 5 December 1997.

Daphne Fielding was a society author in the decades between 1950 and 1980. Having heen a part of the world of Bright Young Things in the 1920s, she was well known in society as the Marchioness of Bath, and following her marriage to Xan Fielding she produced a stream of books of easy charm which achieved great popularity. Good-looking when young, in later life she was a tall, handsome figure, and could have been mistaken for a distinguished actress.

Daphne was the daughter of the fourth Lord Vivian and his wife, Barhara, a former Gaiety Girl, who was to marry three further times. The family was ec-Amentric; many years later, her souther the fifth Lord Vivian (who died in 1991), variously a farm labourer in Canada, a publicity manager in San Francisco and a partner of the impresario C.B. Cochran, had the misfortune to be shot in the stomach in 1954 by his mistress Mavis Wheeler, the former wife of Sir Mortimer Wheeler, the archaeologist, a drama which occupied the headlines for many days.

Daphne emerged from a childhood which was a mixture of hilarity and insecurity, later described with relish in her memoirs, Mercury Presides (though Evelyn Waugh declared these as "marred by discretion and good \aste"). She passed through Queen's College in London, and St James's, Malvern, and gravitated, through her friends the Lygon sisters, to the stimulating world of Oxford in the 1920s, and to that set dominated by Harold Acton, Evelyn Waugh and Brian Howard. The friends she made then were friends for life, a group that gave each other unswerving loyalty despite infidelities and political differences, everlastingly selfprotecting; and a group through which she met Viscount Wev-

There was parental opposition to their union, Henry Weymouth's father deviating that he leeded "a steady wife" and finding that Daphne did not fit this category. Weighing in, her father announced that he thought Weymouth an unsuitable husband. They were married in secret at St Paul's. Knightsbridge, in 1926, and then again considerably more publicly at St Martin-in-the Fields in 1927, the bride dressed by Norman Hartnell, (When eventually they were divorced. there was a prolonged court case before three judges to dissolve that earlier marriage, and regularise the unusual situation.)

Old Lord Both in 1928 handv & the running of the Wiltshire ...mily scat. Longleat, to his son Inol without certain misgivings about his capacity for work) and he and Daphne threw themmanagement of the estate. They employed Russell Page to redo

Daphne wrote articles for newspapers and magazines, which brought her under the protec-

tive care of Lord Beaverbrook. daughter. The eldest boy died Nancy, Emerald and Nancy in 1930, just before his first (1968), which her friend Dirk birthday, and the youngest, Lord Valentine Thynne, died after hanging himself in 1979. Her daughter Caroline predeceased her, and she is survived by two sons, the present Marquess and his brother, Lord Christopher, who are on notoriously had terms. (There was a rumour that at Lord Christopher's wedding to Antonia Palmer in 1968 the cake was laced with LSD. The

Queen was a guest.) Henry Weymouth spent much of the Second World War as a prisoner of the Germans. which did not help the marriage. In 1946 he succeeded his father as Marquess of Bath. Forced by crippling death duties be opened Longleat to the public green, and floated pedalos for hire on the lake. But the marwere divorced in May 1953.

Daphne wrote the first



Loyal friend: Fielding by Augustus John, 1943

guidebook to Longleat, a lively history of the Thynne family from 1566 to 1949, which she researched and wrote in three weeks. This she followed with so that you can take him when Before the Sunset Fades (1953), a slim 30-page book about life above and below stairs at Longleat, decorated, appropriately.

neighbour Ceeil Beaton. In 1953 she married the war hero and travel writer Xan Fielding, a man 14 years her junior, a happy marriage which lasted until 1978. During these years they lived variously in Cornwall, Morocco, Portugal and Uzes, where they settled for some years, surrounded by a variety of pers and visited by their

many friends. While married to Fielding. she wrote her books Mercury Presides (1954) and its sequel, The Nearest Way Home (1970), and a novel, The Adonis Garden (1961), of which Evelyn Waugh wrote that she had "squandered six books in one", adding, "You have used almost everything that has happened in the last twelve years."

The Duchess of Jermyn Street. life of Rosa Lewis of the Cavendish Hotel subsequently serialised on television, was to selves wholeheartedly into the have been written with the help of George Kinnaird (a writer who also used to help Baroness

the gardens and were involved de Stoekl with her books), but in extensive forestry work. To he gave up while going through supplement her income, a divorce. It was published in 1964 and Evelyn Waugh described it as "jolly good but 1 think full of inaccuracies".

She wrote a joint life of They had four sons and a Lady Cunard and her daughter Bogarde judged "light on the intellect", fearing that Fielding had whitewashed these two monsters on the grounds that "she couldn't be beastly to chums"; and a portrait of Iris Tree, The Rainbow Picnic

Raleigh Trevelyan, of Hamish Hamilton, then commissioned her to write a life of Gladys Deacon, the 93-year-old Duchess of Marlborough, whom he had come across while researching his book about the Whitakers of Sicily, Princes Under the Volcano (1972). This was not her usual milieu, since the duchess belonged to the belle époque and intellectual world of Paris of a generation older than in 1949, with an entrance fee of Daphne Fielding. Nevertheless half a crown a head. By 1953 he she was able to tap her wide cirhad added a tearoom and ten- cle of loyal friends for anecnis court, laid out a putting dotes. To ber surprise a man wrongly described as "a young intellectual" proved to have riage was over and the Baths emharked on the same research. However, her friends closed ranks around her, and a word from Lady Diana Cooper to her biographer, Philip Ziegler, caused him to drop

> contract like a hot potato, I know this, for I was that rival. Both books were in due course published, hers under the title The Face on the Sphinx (1978). But the story had a happy ending, for those same friends helped me with my life of Cecil Beaton, and Diana as peacemaker, effected a successful rapprochement between us. I enjoyed a number of meetings with Daphne in New York in 1981, during which she chatted amicably about our experiences and regaled me with Cecil Beaton stories, I always remember her line about Patrick Leigh Fermor: "Do you know Paddy? He's such a good friend. He should be turned into pills

the rival's incipient Collins

Her friend Robert Heber-Percy averred that Daphne Fielding was a hetter convermouth, heir to the Marquess of by her old friend and Wilshire sationalist and letter-writer than notably as Marryin' Sam in Lil thank you") in Guys and Dolls.

you feel low."

author of books. In 1978 Xan Fielding left Daphne for a lady described by her friends as "an older woman". Bereft but heave, she was lucky to meet once more an old Oxford friend, Ben Kittridge, an American millionaire, with whom she went to live in Arizona until his death in 1981. Thereafter she returned to England and settled in the Old Laundry in the shadow of Badminton, where for two years the fox-hunting t0th Duke of Beaufort ("Master") lived on, and

oline lived as the next Duchess Daphne Fielding's last years were spent there. At the famous Horse Trials she could be seen driving about in a tiny selfpropelled vehicle and every Sunday she lunched with her son-in-law, where she was a by no means unnoticed figure at

Hugo Vickers



Kaye, third from left (next to Frank Sinatra), as Nicely-Nicely Johnson in the film version of Guys and Dolls, 1955

Stubby Kaye

Stubby Kaye, actor and singer: born New York It November 1918; married Angela Bracewell: dled Rancho Mirage, California I December 1997,

Cooper, in her more usual role
The genial and rotund singercomedian Stubby Kave secured a place in theatrical history on the night of 24 November 1950 when the classic musical Guys and Dolls opened on Broadway.

in a score by Frank Loesser

full of musical gems, Kaye had the biggest show-stopper of the evening with the revivalist num-ber "Sil Down, You're Rockin' the Boat", the audience demanding several encores. He repeated his role with equal success in London, and recreated his performance in the 1955 film version. Though he had further successes on stage and screen, Damon Runyon's jovial gambler Nicely-Nicely Johnson that he

will always be remembered. Guys and Dolls was Kaye's blers offer their conflicting Johnny Mercer/Gene DePaul

Broadway déhut, but he had already had a long career in show husiness. Born in 1918 in New York, he was not christened Stubby, but always refused to reveal his real first name, In 1939 he won the Major Bowes Amateur Hour contest on radio, the prize including a job touring in vaudeville, where he was sometimes billed as "Extra Padded Attraction". He joined the United Service Organisation (USO) during the Second World War, touring battle fronts and making his London début

performing with Bob Hope. After the war he continued to work in vaudeville and gained a reputation in night-clubs as Master of Ceremonies for the swing orchestras of Freddy Martin and Charlic Barnet before being cast as Nicely-Nicely (when asked how he is, he always replies, "Nicely, nicely, Abner, it is for his portrayal of As well as his second act showstopper, Kaye also led the brilliant opening trio, "Fugue for town's cowardly founder, plus Tinhorns", in which three gam- two other highlights of the

horse right here ..."

When the show opened in London in 1953, just five days and a charming duet with the before the Queen's coronation, Kaye again stopped the show with "Sit Down, You're Rockin" the Boat" when, as one of the gamblers attending a Salvation Army meeting because of a wager, he rouses the congregation with his account of a dream in which he was on a boat to heaven but was swept overboard when he tried to start a dice game.

If the Runyon charactors of Guys and Dolls were somewhal fanciful, those of Kaye's next Broadway musical, L'il Abner (1955), were literally based on cartoons - Al Capp's colourful newspaper readers since 1935. As Marryin' Sam, Kaye was givpone", a rousing tribute to the

Very Best of Hands", with a sharply satirical Mercer lyric. show's heroine Daisy Mae, "I'm Past My Prime". "Give him a musical fanfare like 'Jubilation T. Compone'," wrote Brooks Atkinson, "and he can sing it with that vaudeville rhythm and those vaudeville hlandishments that turn song numbers into triumphant occasions." When the show was filmed in

1959, Kaye was again consid-

ered indispensable casting.

DePaul and Mercer also wrote the score for You Can't Run Away From It (1956), a musical remake of the Capra classic It Happened One Night. As inhahitants of Dogpath, USA, a passenger on a hus carrying which had been delighting a runaway heiress, June Allyson, and a reporter, Jack Lemmon, Kaye provided one of the en only featured hilling, but brighter moments when he proagain had the major show- moted friendship by leading the stopper "Jubilation T. Corn- passengers in the song "Howdy Friends and Neighbours".

In 1965 Kaye and Nat "King" Cole acted as Greek chorus in the acclaimed western satire Cat

racetrack tips: "I've got the . score, "The Country's in the Ballou, and in Boh Fosse's film version of Sweet Charity (1968) led the company in the ebullient "I Love to Cry at Weddings". He also appeared in films which included 40 Pounds of Trouble (1963), Sex and the Single Girl (1964) and The Way West (1967), and lent his voice to the part-animated Who Framed Roger Rabbit (1988). He was a familiar guest television performer in the days when stars such as Perry Como and Dinah Shore had their own shows and he had regular roles in two short-lived series, Love and Marriage (1959) and My Sister

> Eileen (1960). He last appeared on Broadway in 1974, starring with Alice Faye and John Payne in a revival of Good News. As the football coach Pooch Kearney, his cherubic countenance unchanged since his days as Nicely-Nicely. he proved as infectiously jubilant as ever when he led his team in DeSylva, Brown and Henderson's ode to optimism "Sunny Side Up".

--- Torn Vallance

Stanislaus Rapotec

As a friend and a wartime fellow officer of Stanislaus Rapotec, writes Aleksa Gavrilovic, (we served in the Royal Yugoslav Battalion in Middle East before where, until her death from can- and after his mission to the occer in 1995, her daughter Carcupied Yugoslavia), may 1 add to Professor Stevan Pavlow-

itch's obituary [9 December]? Paylowitch is correct: Rapotec's 1942 reports were "lucid and unprejudiced". However, his statements that the reports "may not have been to the liking of those to whom he reported" and that they were probably not passed to London "hut kept in Cairo by Yugoslavs and British there", need clarification.

Rapotee was briefed and debricfed separately by the British Special Operations Executive, by the Yugoslav military and by Jovan Dionovic, Yugoslav Government Delegate for the Middle East. Serb, Croat and Slovene ministers of the Yugoslav government in London received Rapotec's information with varying degrees of enthusiasm: Rapotec reported

confirmed the horrors of the Croat Ustasa regime. SOE documents released

positively about General Mi-

hailovic's activities and those of

nationalists in Slovenia and

Churchill", Independent, 28 June) have confirmed that SOE (Cairo) was Communistdominated. Information favourable to the nationalists was

not passed to London. Paylowitch writes that Rapotec met Archbishop Stepinac several times during his mission. I had long discussions with Rapotec about these meetings. Stepinac told him that he could achieve more, including saving lives of individual Serbs, by not condemning publicly the Ustasa regime. Rapotec fully helieved in the Archhishop's integrity. earlier this year ("How a Sovi- However, Stepinac's wartime

et mole united Tito and activities remain controversial. as indeed do those of Pins XII. One must await the release of Vatican documents before making a final judgement.

> Rapotec was a flamboyant personality in peace and in war. In 1944, Churchill persuaded King Peter that the only way to safeguard his position was to co-operate with Tito. The young king hroadcast on the BBC an appeal to all Yugoslavs to unite under Tito. This caused great confusion. Colonel F. Stropnik, the CO of the Yugoslav hattalion, a Slovene like Rapotec, decided to respond to the King's appeal. Officers who

were against co-operation with Communists left. However, Rapotec with his sergeant returned in the night and "stole" the Royal Standard, which had been presented to the battalion personally by the King. This was a great embarrassment to Colonel Stropnik, who was still claim-

ing his allegiance to the King, Soon afterwards it became clear that no accommodation was possible with Tito. One Slovene, Stroppik, put the red star on his cap, and returned to Yugoslavia, where he was promptly dismissed from the army. The other Slovene. Rapotec, became an Australian.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births. MARRIAGES & DEATHS (dirths, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriam should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London Eld 50L, telephoned to 0171-293 2012 [24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011] or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 46.50 at line AVAT and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Please include

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Prince of Wales, Papen, attends a performance of Verdey Region of the Royal Restal Hall, London Siyl, on the recession of the 40th anniversity of the Pullharmania Chorus. The Princosa Royal, Patron, National Association of Vertime Support Schemes, attends the Meeting of the Vertim Support Advisory Deard, Charch Royal London SWI; as Patron, Sense — the National Dearbland and Rubella Association, attends a "Friends Lundo", Ruttand Trust Ph. Landon SWP; and, as President, Amend Health Turst, attends the Christman Cel-Ph. Lumon Switz and in Treatment An-mal Health Treat, afterule the Christma Cel-dration Dinner at the Fungueting House, Lumbin SWI. The Duchess of Gloucescer aftends a "Carels by Canaledight" Service in and of the Homespot Home Chardy at St. Luke's Church, London SW3, The Duchess of Kent presents the Children of Courage Awards, at Westmin der Abbey, London SW1. cer attention Carely by Canalick

Thanging of the Guard The Household Caraby Mounted Regiment mounts the Outen's Life Guard at Horse Guards Ham; by Baltalian The Royal Reginent of Wales mounts the Unicen's Guar

Birthdays

Mr Simon Bates, disc jockey, 50; Mr Peter Blackburn, president and director-general, Nestle France, 57; Dame Mary Cartwright, math-ematician, 97; Mr Christopher Cazenove, actor, 52: Viscount Dav-entry, Lord-Lieuten,mt of Warwickshire, 76; Lord de Villiers, barrister, 86; Lord Glenamara, former gov-ernment minister, 85; Mr Brian Hayes, radio presenter, 60: Mr Bernard Hill, actor, 53: The Hon Do-minic Lawson. Editor, the Sunday Telegraph, 41; Mr Kerry Packer. chairman, Consolidated Press Hold ings, 60; Sir Leonard Peach, Comsioner for Public Appointments, 65: Mr Robert Robinson, broadcaster and writer, 70; Mr David Smith, former Headmaster, Bradford Grammar School, 63: Mr Tommy Steele, singer and actor, 61.

Anniversaries Births: Gabrielle-Emilie Le Tonnelier de Breteuil. Marquise du Chineles, writer, 1706; Ludwig van Beethwen, composer, baptised 1770; Sir Humphry Davy, chemist and in-ventor, 1778; Jules-Alfred Hum de Gonecurt, novelist and historian 1830; Ford Madox Ford, novelist, 1875: I. Robertson Hare, actor. 1891: Ersking Preson Caldwell, nov elist, 1905. Deaths: Simon Bolivar, South American patriot, 1830; Kaspar Hauser, the foundling Twild boy of Nuremberg, 1833; Rear-Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort, bydrographer, 1857: Louis-Marie

Alphonse Daudet, novelist, 1897 Baron Ferdinand James de Roth-schild, banker, 1898; Bernard Quaritch, bookseller, 1899; Sir William Thomson, first Barren Ketvin of Largs, physicist, 1907; Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, physician, 1917; Peter Philip Heseltine Warlock, com-poser and editor, committed suicide 1950; Dana Andrews (Carver Daniel Andrews 1, actor. 1992. On this day: Drake's ship The Pelican | afterward called The Golden Hind) sailed our of Plymouth on a round-the-world voyage, 1577: the Lyric Theatre. Shaftesbury Avenue. London. opened, 1888; the first radio message was sent across the Atlantic, 1902; the Wright brothers made their first flight at Kitty Hawk. North Carolina. 1903: Inflowing a blizzard. New York received 27 inches of snow 1947; following the closure of the Sucz Canal, petrol rationing was imposed in Britain, 1956; after Arab guerrillas hijacked a West German airliner at Rome airport, 3t people were killed, 1973. Today is the Feast Day of St Begga. St Luzarus. St

Lectures

National Gallery: Jacqueline Ansell, "Christmas Trees (iii): Casnor David Friedrich, Winter Land-

Olympias, St Sturmi and St Wiving,

ч*арс*". Ірпі. Victoria and Albert Museum: Julia Hutt. "Japanese Netsuke", 230pm. Tate Gallery: Justine Hopkins Sunshine, Chateaux and Drifting Water: Turner and the Loire", 1pm.

LAW REPORT: 17 DECEMBER 1997

Aggravated burglary required entry with a weapon

Where, in the course of a burglary, one of the burglars was carrying a weapon but he did not enter the building with it, the offence of aggravated burglary contrary to section 10 of the Theft Act 1968 was not committed.

Regna v Mass: Court of Appeal. (Cominal Drasion) (Lond Justice Mantell, Mr (ustice Hooper and Judge Michael Walker) 27 November 1997

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of Kennedy Franeis Klass against his conviction on 16 January 1997 at Chelmsford Crown Court of aggravared hurglary, hut substituted a conviction of hurglary nursuant to section 3 of the

Criminal Appeal Act 1968. The appellant was one of three men who burgled a caravan. The window of the caravan was broken, and when the

pellant, with a piece of pole in man he did not have any money, and the man smashed him over the head with the pole. The victim ran away and the man followed him and repeatedly struck him with the pole.

On his return to the caravan, the victim discovered that various items were missing. Several hours later the appellant was arrested in connection with another matter. He initially denied involvement in the hurglary, but his fingerprints were found inside the caravan. He eventually admitted having been present outside the caravan, and said that one of his companions had suggested the hurglary. He had, however,

occupant stepped outside he John C. Barker (Registrar of Crimisaw a man, who was not the up- nat Appeals) for the appellant; Susannah Farr (Crown Prosecution his hand. The victim told the Service, Chelmsford) for the Crown.

> Mr Justice Hooper said that the appeal raised one question of law: whether the offence of aggravated burglary could be committed if the weapon was not being carried by the burglar or one of the burglars who entered the building. Section 9(1)(a) of the Theft Act 1968 provided:

A person is guilty of burglary if (a) he enters any building or part of a building as a trespasser and with as is mentioned in subsection (2)

One of the offences mentioned in subsection (2) was the offence of "stealing anything in the huilding or part of the been surprised when one of hudding in question". Section them had pulled out the pole. 10 of the Act provided:

A person is guilty of aggravated bur-glary if be commits any burglary and at the time has with him . . . any weapon of offence ...; and for this purpose ... (b) "weapon of offence" means any article made or adapted for use for causing injury in or incapacitating a person or in-tended by the person having it with

To commit the offence the person must have a weapon of offence with him at the time of entry: see R v O'Leary (1986) 82 Cr App R 341. There was no evidence that

the pole had ever entered the caravan. It had been used to break the window, but that was not, on the facts of the case, an "entry" within the meaning of the word in section 9(1) of the Act.

Assuming that there was only one weapon and that that weapon was with the person on the outside of the building, that person committed a burglary if he was aiding and abetting

the hurglary being committed by the person effecting entry. A strict interpretation of section 10 would therefore lead to the conclusion that both could be convicted of aggravated burglary.

The gravamen of the offence of aggravated burglary .was, however, entry into the building with a weapon. The purpose of section 10 was to deter people from taking weapons into buildings and other people's houses while committing burglary. Although there were certain academic attractions in the strict approach to the interpretation of the section, a purposive approach was to be preferred. The conviction for aggravated burgiary would be quashed, but a conviction of burglary would be substituted, pursuant to section 3 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968.

-- Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

لمكذا من ألاصل



EDITOR: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARE. LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 017t 293 2000 OR 017t 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

The politics are simple. The huge numbers, ing the welfare budget for at the very least. the jargon, the unfashionable subjectmatter and (not least) the obfuscation of ministers give the impression that the disability henefits row is very complicated. In essence, it isn't.

The political dynamic can be seen on the streets of almost any major city. There are people begging. You pass. You have money. You feel irritation: you are a gritty person, a coper, a worker. Why should you give money to this idler, this sturdy beggar? Why don't they try harder? But you also feel something else; pity and unease. You feel "what-if-it-was-me?" and you feel suddenly superstitious about your own better fortune. These two basic social instincts are at war. So you give. Or you don't give.

That's what's going on. State welfarism veils the dilemma, hiding it behind the relative anonymity of mass provision, the complexities of different payments and the blatherings of politicians. But there are very simple warring urges at play.

Labour needs the money from squeez-

to stop the increase t. That means looking at disability payments, which have risen 200 per cent since 1978/9 in teal terms and comprise about a quarter of the total welfare budget. Labour knows voters elected it to improve schools and hospitals without raising taxes. Now it has to find the money from somewhere. Not-very-disabled-people, it has decided, are one group which will lose.

rhetoric if it came from a right-wing party. The Social Security Secretary would be on the radio talking about scroungers and layabouts, whipping up populist outrage and generally playing to that human instinct which passes the beggar with a shiver of irritation. It would be nasty and effective. Right-wing parties do this sort of thing all the time.

Harriet Harman doesn't use that language. She can't. Hers is not a right-wing populist party, it was founded to speak for that other instinct, the sense of pity, the

On top of that, Labour has encouraged and embraced the language of rights and citizenship. Disabled people don't want to be pitied. They follow where blacks, women and gays led, demanding their share of the social sunlight. They have articulate, angry and effective spokespeople. They are prepared to use direct action.

How can a party created partly from a sense of compassion, and now very close This might translate into effective to the "rights culture", invoke words such as shirker and sponger to reach the voters and impress the Press? It just can't. This means that Timy Blair and Harriet Harman are engaging in a crusade to cut benefits without the moralising, populist language that would normally go with it. No wonder they sound abstract, oddly passionless and wonden-tongued on the issue.

So what is to be done? The state cannot and should not compensate for all the misfortunes and difficulties of life. Over time, responsibility for paying people who are injured or become sick at work should

pass from the state to employers, and thus, in effect, the insurance companies, That might save some £700m eventually. But it doesn't really answet the hard questions.

The only way ahead is to spend more. in the short term, on better inspection procedures, and to ensure that money is spent only on those who really need it. Cutting into the "middle-class welfare state" is absolutely consonant with the New Labour programme. Many better-off people will lose, and howt. But the balancing quid pro quo is that disability benefit would not be cut, but raised, for those who are really incapacitated. There needs to be, in other words, a sharper cut-off between citizens recognised as seriously disabled and needy. and those who are not.

At the same time, much more should he done about getting disabled people into work, using the stick not simply on individuals hut on companies. This may lead to a national quota system, enforceable by taw. We are not much in favour of new regutations and bureaucracies, but companies

Will all this radically reduce the welfare 1 budget? Not soon, because of the huge number of disabled people who are already beyond working age, and because the change in culture cannot happen overnight if it is to be introduced humanely. Nobody who voted Labour in May did so hoping that ministers would cause anguish and poverty to people already badly disadvantaged in life. And, we say again, these changes need to be accompanied by more generous benefits for the badly disabled.

IDONALD

JAKS TO

THE LORD

MACINTIRE

Gelting the balance right means mixing compassion and generosity with toughmindedness about eligibility and need. It means that the Government has to persuade the country and the party that it is. at least as worried about the living standards of the disabled as those of the antitax, better-off voter - but is also prepared to turf the minority of workshy off benefits. They don't give that impression at the moment. They'd better start.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daysime telephone number.
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LETTERS

SOME MINERS, DOCKERS, SHIPBUILDERS & STEELWORKERS

EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN FOR THE BEEF INDUSTRY

OH DEAR

Work and morals

Sir: My new Labour Party membership card for 1998 arrived in the post the morning after the vote on single-parent benefit. I ask myself whether I want to remain a member of a Party which can so dramatically reverse its previous opposition to this measure.

The new stance is based on the assumption that there is a major problem of welfare dependency which any sensible government would have to tackle. As a historian I am sceptical of this,

Every time there has been a collapse of the labour market there have been politicians who have claimed that the uoemployed are suffering from some moral deficiency rather than from economic circumstances. Yet each time the labour market has subsequently revived "morals" seem to have shifted remarkably quickly as unemployment has fallen.

A policy of welfare to work, in the sense of facilitating the way back to work for those who want it, is quite right. But to treat this as a moral issue, and thereby juslify the use of hig sticks as we as carrots, is not what a Labour government should be about.

I will not be renewing my membership. Professor JIM TOMLINSON Brunel University Uxbridge, Middlesex

Sir: While supporting the "big idea" of the present government that everybody should be given the opportunity to be employed rather than receive benefits, may I promote the balancing policy of a minimum income necessary for bealthy living. This should also join the ranks of "big ideas".

The poorest 10 per cent in the United Kingdom are dying younger than they were. The reasons given have been stress and inadequate diet and health care. There has been no improvement in their life span since the 1920s. The rest of us

are living longer. There is a minimum income needed for a pregnant woman which will provide adequate nutrition for her and her unborn child. Failure to provide such an income in social benefits to the poorest families sets up a time bomb of physical and mental inadequacy which runs on through the generations.

Single parents, two-parent families. Jeenagers, pensioners and others need appropriate minimum incomes sufficient to ensure that nutrition is not diminished because of the needs for warmth, clothing, transport and other necessities.

Governments are, however, flying blind. They increase or reduce benefits and pensions, propose a minimum income, with no idea, big or little, of the weekly incomes needed for healthy living and an improved expectation of life for the poorest. The Rev PAUL NICOLSON

Zeccheaus 2000 Trust Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

Sir: You say (leader, 9 December) that "a lump of cash, handed out by the state, does not make a poor household part of the mainstream". Perhaps it doesn't - by itself - although in a society in which "the mainstream" is made up of those with more

money, it doesn't half help. But an adequate income also makes the other steps out

of exclusion that much easier.

It makes the transition to paid employment less of a risk--crucial for those with children especially. Recent research shows that lone parents suffering greater financial hardship were less likely to obtain a job. All the tasks of the new Social Exclusion Unit will be made that

ergies of the people whose problems it is meant to be addressing are exhausted by the day-to-day struggle for survival. Let's stop perpetuating the damaging polarisation between better benefits and other antipoverty policies. Each is necessary but not sufficient. They should all be seen as etements of a comprehensive strategy to

> FRAN BENNETT choose to be a tone parent if

Sir: To be a lone parent through no fault of your own is geoerally regarded as unfortunate. To

one has no personal means of

enable people to move from the

margins to the mainstream.

much more difficult if the en-

support, nowadays looks like carelessness - many taxpayers may even say irresponsibility. The social sanctions against

illegitimacy which prevailed until quite recently represented sound, protective principles. The erosion of social sanctions and the absence of economic sanctions have had predictable consequences none of them good news for taxpayers struggling to raise a family in traditional fashion. 1 hope I am not alone in supporting the Government's efforts to make young women think twice before choosing to hecome a lone parent. Dr ANNE CAROLE

CHAMIER Antross, Ross and Cromarty

Sir: Those who have rebelled against their party in the vote on benefits for single parents ough) to remember that they have been elected not just to put in place the wishes of those who voted for them, or to exercise the ideology of their party, albeit the

benefit of the whole people, a requirement forgotten in their time by their predecessors. much to their eventual cost. JAMES MACKIE Witney, Oxfordshire

Talking cure

Sir: One basic problem with the research on counselling to date is that the researchers are not always clear as to the nature of counselling or as to who or what is a counsellor ("What's so speeial about psychotherapy?", 9 December 1. Nevertheless, the special ingredient of counselling and psychotherapy is in the quality of the therapeutic retationship. It is not surprising that it is so popular with patients and GPs in medical centres where

the GPs' time is at a premium. What did Jeremy Laurance expect to be the outcome of the research? That counsellors were more effective than GPs? The fact that they are at least as ef-

fective may well disturb GPs,

"old" party, but to govern for the considering the length and expense of their training. Certainly many of them welcome a counsellor as a colleague to assist in bearing the burden of the emo-

uonally disturbed patient. Counsellors and psychotherapists are not unaware of the need to "sharpen up" their professional skills and are collaborating in research. Perhaps the best evidence to date is the huge demand for counselling and patients' preference for the "talking cure" rather than drugs. JOHN EATOCK

Vice-Chair, Counselling in Medical Scatings Division, British Association for Counselling Rughy, Warwickshire

Unfree information

Sir: A few years ago a number of leading Labour politicians and spokesmen from the Campaign for Freedom Information supported a proposed Freedom of Information Act with the claim that it would mean that the press would be able to uncover scandals such as "Arms to Iraq". They were naive.

PRIESTLEY

The reality is that David Clark's proposal ("Freedom of information proposal gets high praise", 12 December) is loaded with so many exclusions - what does "national security" actually mean? - that in practice the press will still remain in the dark. The decision to exclude defence, foreign affairs and the security and intelligence services from its provisions means that this a pale shadow of, for instance, the American Freedom of Information Act. which is itself deeply flawed.

I recently received a bundle of documents from US Army Intelligence on a number of deceased British politicians and individuals, I received them within six weeks of the request and it cost me not fa nominal fee of £1ff" but just the price of

STEPHEN DORRIL Holmfirth, West Yorkshire

Radio row

Sir: John Humphrys is not the only tadio presenter who interrupts and denies his interviewees the chance to air their views to the listeners, ("Labour" at war with Today", 13 December). It is getting worse.

t was desperate for information about the new student loan scheme and was delighted when I tuned in to an interview . with Baroness Blackstone by Nick Clarke on The World at . One. There I was, pen poised to write down the information hotine number which Lady Blackstone had promised us when, to my horror. Nick Clarke interrupted her.

The BBC has become obsessed with antagonism and . analysis to the detriment of information. BARBARA WILMER Ness, Cheshire

Sir: The Harriet Harman interview seemed to me to be an attempt on the part of John Humphrys to get a straight answer. It seems that, when ministers consent to be interviewed, they are instructed to ignore direct questions, and to contin-

ue talking over the interviewer. There can be no justification . for an attempt to evade questions by hluster and threats. Mypleasure at seeing the backs of the last government, who had forgotteo that they were answerable to an electorate, is being rapidly diminished at the prospect that, in power, Labour is fast de- . veloping the same traits.

J OSRÍN London N2

> Sir: If the Government pursues its pusilianimous threat to boycott the Today programme the losers will be not the listeners but the Government. BRIAN MAYES

Busy Santa

Sir. Peter Baker ("Keepings Father Christmas fit for duty" 16 December) understates the hurden S Claus willingly carries as a patron saint. He meotions children and sailors, but overlooks unmarried women, merchants, pawnbrokers, perfumiers and the whole of Russia. Incidentally, might S Claus's longevity be the consequence of having refused his mother's breast on . Wednesdays and Fridays. JOHN EVANS Marlow, Buckinghamshire

The Daily Inexorable, the paper that's polite to its readers!



MILES KINGTON Good morning.

And welcome to the only column in any daily newspaper which has the grace to say, "Good morning" to its readers,

Oh yes, there are many columns which will start out by saying: "How long can the Spice Girls last?" or "Come off it. Tony Blair!". but there is only one column which will say a simple "Good morning".

And that is this column. So, this morn (morn!) we say "Good morning".

Because we realise that the old niceties are not to be discarded and that there are people out there who like the old-fashioned exchanges of courtesy.

To them we say: "Good morning, ma'am, or it may be.

We are proud of the older readers whose hands are encrusted with marmulade and whose nostrils react favourably to the aroma of bacon fat.

On the other hand we do realise the extreme importance of attracting younger readers. We know that there are many readers under the age of 40 who, as soon as they hear the phrase: "Good morning, ma'am.

or it may be, sir", will throw up. What they want to hear is a modern, fresh-air greeting such as "Hi there, dude," or "Yo,

And to them we say: "Hi there, dude," and "Yo, friend!"

So, there it is. To the older readers we say, "Good morrow,"

To the younger readers we say: "Hey there, dude!"

I think that takes care of the grown-up market, those who are old enough to he allowed to go out and huy a newspaper by themselves.

But what of the under-age market, those who are children of our readers, those who are aged 18 or less? Maybe 15 nr less, or even 10 or less? What of them?

Well, the received wisdom is that people of 12 or under don't buy papers. That may be right.

On the other hand, that You see, people of 12 or under are already of the mental age to read many of our at 12 to read The Sun. But other papers they are the right age That is the market that we

have to aim at. The market that one day is

going to grow up and say to itself. Hey, what was the name of that paper that was so nice to me when I was a kid? Indefatigable, Inexorable, Indefensible, something like that?

So, to that market we say this height (or dull) morning, "Hi, kids! Hev, I like your haircut! Mark you. I don't like the way you dress or the sound of your music, but you'd hate it if I did, right? Because you can come to me for down-to-earth honesty! This is the column that tells it like it is! This is the newspaper tabloids. They may be too old column you can hate as much

as your parents - maybe even hate instead of your parents!" Phew. Didn't enjoy that

much, but had to do it. That's the kind of column we

Of course, saying Good Morning isn't enough. We've got style hut we need substance as well. Form we've got, but where's the content?

Look, we're overflowing with content! Don't forget that this column has blazed its way through the newspaper jungle with a series of firsts which was greeted by the What the Papers Say awards with complete bafflement.

Don't forget that this is the olumu that hought Prince Edward out of the Marines. Dun't forget that we were hlushing!

the first ever people who brought you; a newspaper column licensed

for the performance of marriage actually in the newspaper itsell! · details of the conditions on which Screaming Lord Sutch

would form a coalition with Tony Blair if there were a hung parliament at the last election! Lord Spencer's real name! · proof that the jojoba and alne vera plants do not exist but

were invented by the permicious cosmetics industry! • compelling evidence that Sir Hugh Trevor-Roper's memoirs were lake!

• a report on a woman's magazine that is so free of sex that a man could read it without

 the shocking tale of a man who had the operation to become a woman, and then changed sex back to man because women's magazines were SO in-your-face!

I think you get the idea. And now this is the point at which we traditionally shyly mention the name of the Christmas book which contains the hest extracts from this column, io at attempt to make it a best-seller.

But there is no such book. Yes, this is a commercial plug without a product.

Remember that, kids. When you grow up, spend. your money on the column that didn't try to take your money from you when you



The Japanese

·*** / / ·

19/COMMENT

The expansive realm of Tony Blair's old master



DONALD **MACINTYRE** JALKS TO THE LORD **CHANCELLOR**

Sitting yesterday across the large table in his handsome office in the Lords, I asked the Lord Chancellor whether the real problem was that he was too hig for his boots. Nobody doubts the extent of his power. But not everyone likes it. He chairs, sometimes rather hrutally, a lot of the most important Cabinet committees. He does not, to put it mildly, hide henlight under a hushel. On the One hand, he is admirably qualified for the joh, as he well knows. Neil Kinnock would have made him Lord Chancellor. So would John Smith. But as Tony Blair's former pupilmaster and trusted mentor, isn't he rather too powerful for his own good? He is brisk and unfazed. "That is easy to say when I have all these Cabinet committees to chair. I think in the longer term when the current froth dies down, I will be judged by results."

So let's look at some of the froth first. An attack that has riled him exceedingly was the one on the £650,000 sprucing up mis official house in the Lords. He quoted at some length - from a 1986 text conveniently at his elbow - Margaret Thatcher warmly commending the importance of the Palace of Westminster as national heritage and, in particular, her pride in the similar and at the time uncriticised - refurbishment of the Speaker's House. The equally "exciting" rolling programme of work in the Lord Chancellor's lodgings, agreed as it was before the election by an all-party committee. was no different. This is a famously fine art-loving Lord Chancellor, and it would be furpaintings and sculpture at present hidden in the cellars of country's great galleries - 19thtatury works appropriate to Barry's architectural genius. Gibson's great sculpture Narcissus, for example, would gaze appropriately down at his own reflection in the Thames and behind it would be Sir Edward Landseer's magnificent portrait of the sculptor. This would be in effect be a "new public gallery on the

> Public? Well, it would, for the first time, be open two afternoons a week to members of the Victorian Society and the



Lord Irvine, 'the workhorse of this Government', in his office yesterday

Photograph: John Voos

National Art Collections Fund, while scholars and other organisations would be able to visit on application at other times.

Did the wallpaper have to cost £59,000? It would cost no more than wallpaper elsewhere in the Palace and would last 40 years. "Even Lord Chancellors are entitled to a lick of paint and some new wallpaper when it's required ... it will be within budget. Don't forget it needed to be substantially rewired. It needed smoke alarms. There is a mass of work that simply had to be done for maintenance and to make safe an important part of the Palace of Westminster. And also I'm afraid I think if a job's worth doing it's worth doing well. And if it's not worth doing well it's not worth doing at all."

Now what of his notorious self comparison with Cardinal Wolsey? He didn't doubt that it would appear in his obituary. But this was not at all, he explains, the huhristic boast it is claimed to be, hut a simple joke.

sits heside me so that we can pore in detail over both the text of the after-dinner speech in which he made the remark, and the Times account of it, presented as part of an interview. He compared himself with Wolsey in a jokey passage about past Lord Chancellors on the sole grounds that Wolsey had started the Star Chamber and he was chairman of a latter-day "Star Chamber". in the shape of the Cabiner committee on future legislation (QFL). He did also say, at the end of this passage, that "some of the earlier Lord Chancellors" illustrated

the fact that "in past centuries the Lord Chancellor had an important wide-ranging role, encompassing politics, religion, the economy and even military affairs." What he didn't do

was conflate the two thoughts. But didn't it strike a chord precisely hecause his relationship to Tony Blair is terrifyingly close to that of Wolsey's to Henry VIII? And that his allencompassing writ does indeed range over politics, and if not religion, the economy and even military affairs? And that he wields all this power as an unelected politician? Well, he saw it "rather dif-

ferently". As chairman of many Cahinet committees, he was rather a "workhorse of this government". His experience of meetings with experts on a wide range of issues over the years made him a suitable chairman of QFL. And "I do actually think if you have practised for 30 years at the Bar in very difficult areas of the law, you do bring, certainly in the constitutional reform, a breadth of experience with you which I am enthusiastic to put at the dis-

posal of the Government." All the constitutional committees he chaired were interlinked; it was sensible to have a single chairman for them. "You mustn't underrate the huge difficulty of this task. It's very, very major. There has been no coulyalent programme of constitutional reform this century."

But hang on. This doesn't quite answer the question. Certainly he has all the qualifications to take on the "huge difficulty" of the task - except

one: nobody had actually elect-

But, said Lord Irvine, wasn't Lord Chancellor who was an experienced constitutional lawyer an appropriate person to handle constitutional reform? His predecessor Lord Mackay, who after all had been quite a busy man, hadn't chaired all these committees?

Well, actually, "James Mackay for whom I have very considerable admiration" might well have been the right person to do such a thing - except that such a thing hadn't arisen. And anyway his writ seemed to run

had his own appearance before PX – and anyway he and George Robertson were "absolutely the best of friends ... But if PX is to do its job properly ... if there's any merit in questioning assumptions and received wisdoms, then it's got to its job professionally and vigorously. All my Cabinet colleagues have very broad shoulders."

No, said Lord Irvine; first, he too

What about rumours that he bullied staff? "Well, you should go and ask them. I think you'll find that my private office all rather like me.

It was not true - as a news-

The lady who gives me lunch sometimes peels oranges for me. The great public should be well pleased that I'm getting a daily diet of Vitamin C' - Lord Irvine

a good deal wider than the Con- paper diarist had reported stitution. Wasn't he, for exam- that he had ordered one of his of PX, the committee on public spending?

Ah well, that was because there was a direct link between the legislative programme and the comprehensive spending reviews under PX. But wasn't the truth that he acted as a sort of prosecuting counsel in these PX sessions with spending ministers? I had heard, for example, that he had treated one Secretary of State just like a prisoner on the dock ...

"Which one?" Lord Irvine demanded swiftly. Well, since you ask, George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence.

orange for him. What happened was that "the lady who gives me lunch in this room every day when I have a salad over work also occasionally peels oranges for me. Well, she's very happy to. You should go and ask her. And I think the great public should he well

sible daily diet of Vitamin C." Finally, hadn't there been unease in the legal profession about the unexpected appointment as the Treasury Devil - the prestigious if not particularly well-paid barrister who works full-time for the Government -

pleased that I am getting a sen-

of Philip Sales, who just happened to hail from his own former chambers of 11 King's Bench Walk? First of all, this was not his appointment at all but that of the Solicitor General, Charles Falconer, who knew the Bar backwards. "Charlie Palconer will tell you that there was a strong consensus that Philip Sales (a Double First with one of the largest and most impressive junior practices at the Bar in commercial, public and some European law) ... was the

Office? "Oh, it's not for me to

entertain such unworthy sus-

his colleagues have been known

to claim, ideally want to preside over a Ministry of Justice, leav-

ing the Home Office as a con-

tinental-style Ministry of the

Interior? "I think this depart-

ment is a Ministry of Justice, I

think if you put a plaque say-

ing Ministry of Justice outside

the front door, I don't think

anyone would be in the least

surprised. But if you ask me if

I have irredentist ambitions

over the remit of the Home Of-

fice the answer is no. I think the

secret is effective co-operative

arrangements so policy is car-

ried forward by discussion and

He is clearly proud of the

role his Cabinet committee

chairmanship played in the

White Papers on the Euro-

pean Convention of Human

Rights and the much more lib-

eral than expected Freedom of

perhaps, that they have not yet

been given the recognition they

deserve. He is equally adamant

that his planned switch from

legal aid to lawyers taking cases

on a no-win, no-fee basis is a

But wouldn't he, as some of

picions. Of course I don't."

We now turned to the persistent rumours that he was at virtually permanent loggerheads with Jack Straw and his colleagues at the Home Office. Lord Irvine reached for a sheaf of cuttings to deal with each reported casus belli in turn. First, a Daily Mail report that

Straw had scored a famous

outstanding candidate."

victory over him by ensuring that CPS lawyers would be able to appear in magistrates' courts without expensive barquestion - "very small beer" postponing the big issue of CPS lawyers' right to appear in all levels of the courts. All that had happened was that the original QFL decision to leave the legislation to the next session had been brought forward. "I doubt very much that Jack Straw will be claiming this as some kind of triumph. I take this opportunity to say that I have a good co-operative relationship with Jack Straw." So given all these reports about his alleged interference, which he atrongly denies, was someone out to get him at the Home great reform whose time has come. When you press him hard over about the widespread fears that the poor may not be able to persuade lawyers to take cases under the new system, there is just the hint of at least one modest concession on the way. First, as he has already made clear, there will be a Public Interest Fund to ensure that cases testing an important principle will still be protected. But he also let slip for the first time that there may be a "hardship" or "hard cases" fund to ensure that if poor litigants are denied access to justice - where they have a 75 per cent chance of success - they can go to court. On Lords reform, he is not

- in accordance with the iron principle that no Bill should be promised until it has been agreed by Cabinet - committing himself to legislation in the next seasion ending hereditary rights. But that should not in any way be taken as backing off. "Quite the opposite." It's clear that a Bill is still probable. Was there any chance that he would go a tiny way to meeting Tory anxieties - perhaps by allowing hereditary peers a handful of voting representatives but with their heirs precluded from the peerage? He will say only that every option will be considered that doesn't break the principle of Labour's outright opposition to heredi-

Yes, he says, no doubt he has enemies. But everyone does. "I actually believe my relations with Cahinet colleagues are very good." His job driving forward policy on Cabinet committees - every one of which, he says in a typical Irvine-ism, has met its ambitious timetable - puts him in a potentially controversial position.

And look at all these cuttings he has assembled on the table. Isn't he a little obsessive about press criticism? "On the contrary, I am not in the least obsessive about the press. Having been a lawyer all my life I correctly anticipated that you would ask me about all these stories. You're just criticising me for being efficient."

So if Cardinal Wolsey is not the model - "Oh, for God's sake, I though I'd persuaded you," he interjects with just a touch of asperity - was it more perhaps, as some have suggested. Willie Whitelaw, with his pivotal role in the Thatcher Cabinet? "It's as avuncular as Willie White law. I come from an entirely different source, as it were, from Willie Whitelaw. He was a very emollient figure. People tell me I am not emollient.

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The Japanese economic model is no longer roadworthy

Forget about Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and the other East Asian "tiger" economies; it is Japan we should he worrying about. Even a light reader of newspapers will have been aware that many of the East Asian nations are in financial and economic difficulties, for hardly a day passes without some new dire item of news. For most people, the latest movement of the Bangkok bourse or whether Korea agrees with the terms the IMF is offering for a loan seems irrelevant. We may have learnt a new vocabulary of currencies, such as the baht, the ringit and the won, but the crisis hardly touches our lives.

Japan, however, is different. It is a much larger economy, of course, the second largest in the world. It happens to be an enormous foreign investor in the UK, revolutionising our moint and consumer electronics industries. It is also an economy, a society, which has had a profound practical impact on our daily lives. This is not just because we use the products it has developed every day: its cars, its TV sets, its VCRs, its cameras. It is equally because we have both been attracted by some of its ideas (for example, the emphasis on product quality or the egalitarian structure you're out? in factories) and disturbed by others (such as the lack of career opportunities for Japanese women, and the quality of life of many Japanese men).

Until four or five years ago Japan's economic prowess aroused a certain awe: it was the country that

seemed to be huying up most of America, but also the one that seemed in get through the recession without a surge in unemployment. Many people here envied the close relationship between companies and banks, and the education system that funnelled the brightest students into large companies.

Over the past few years, however, this perception has shifted. We are vaguely aware that things are not quite as good as they used to be, that Japan stills seems to be in recession. that the hanks and securities houses seem to be in trouble. However we have assumed that sooner or later things would perk up, just as they have here and in America - I certainly did, even though my Japanese friends would suck their teeth and explain that things were really still pretty dire.

In the past few weeks it has become clear that things have become still worse. There is a new economic package now being outlined in Tokyo, designed to boost the economy, but it is the third that the Liberal Democrats have introduced and the previous two have failed. Third time lucky, or three strikes and

The key elements of the package include a plan to support customers of financial institutions that go under, and tax cuts directed mainly at companies. There are not, however, any cuts in income tax, or any reversal of the rise in sales tax, which went up



McRAE ON THE FALL OF JAPAN

ing the economy back into recession this summer. To understand Japan's problem, think back to the last recession in the UK. We escaped because sterling came out of the Exchange Rate Mechanism and interest rates were cut: the first boosted foreign demand and the

from 3 per cent to 5 per cent in the

spring and was responsible for plung-

second home demand. In Japan there has already been a sharp fall in the currency, but much of the impact of the latest part of the fall has been blunted by even larger declines of other East Asian currencies. So in its fastestgrowing markets, the yen's value has actually gone up. Until the autumn Japanese exports were doing very well: now thanks to this increased com-

petition from the rest of Asia, plus the jobs, progress in lifting them is slow. fall in demand there, prospects suddenly appear sombre. At home, demand is flat. Why?

Well, in the UK, a cut in interest rates would eventually jack up house buying, and prices, and we would then fill our houses with new things. In Japan, they can't really cut interest rates any more as the official rates are below 2 per cent. The housing market is less fluid, partly because people do not move so often and partly because there are great rafts of regulations which inhibit new huilding. There is no impetus to spend more on consumer goods because these markets have reached saturation point: once you have four TV sets you do not really want a fifth; if you possess two high-technology loos (which squirt warm water up your backside) you do not need a third. Besides, there is no room.

It is very easy for an outsider to see how demand in Japan might be stimulated: by having a bonfire of regulations. Perhaps the most damaging are those that affect land use: some. for example, prohibit huilding larger houses, while others protect inefficient builders and discourage new construction methods. Privately. senior Japanese people admit that the main thing strangling domestic demand is excessive regulation, justified on the grounds of social cohesion. Ultimately, deregulation gives a great boost to an economy, but since in the short-term regulations protect to become more like us.

Until a few months ago it seemed. however, that a consensus was huilding that Japan had to change, and deregulation is a very large part of that change. You could see Japan in the early stages of a process similar to that which took place in the US and UK. hut done in a more consensual way. Gradually, over a decade or more, Japan would bring in transparent financial markets, proper accounting, looser huilding regulations, privatisation, more entrepreneurship - all the things that have helped to stimulate demand in the US and UK. Japan would change, but without the sometimes searing social tensions that we have had here.

Gradual change would have been fine if luck were on Japan's side. But it isn't. In the past few weeks the collapse of East Asian economies has created a new urgency. The country cannot rely on exports. Somehow it has to jack up domestic demand.

It is funny, isn't it? All the old virtues, the "save, don't spend" culture, the big companies with their disciplined workers, maybe even the social cohesion, if the price for that is heavy regulation - all these virtues now seem to be almost vices. The very things that made Japan successful now seem to be holding it back. They need to be less puritan, more epicurean. Just as 20 years ago we needed to become more like them, now they need

Watchdog attacks the Pru's 'culture of non-compliance'

Prudential was yesterday given its second public flogging in less than two months by City regulators angry at a 'culture against compliance' which had led to serious management failure and mis-selling to customers. As Andrew Verity reports, it was the nadir of a nightmare year for Britain's largest insurer, Which has been lambasted by regulators, press and Government alike,

In its first important public statement, the new super-regulator, the Financial Services Authority, attacked "a deep-seated and longstanding failure in management which prevented Prudential Assurance from recognising its own shortcomings".

The FSA said the Pru had failed to address and remedy grave defects in the operation of its direct sales force which it had already been warned about. There was, the FSA said, "a cultural disposition against compliance which filtered through Prudential Assurance's branch offices, their managers and advisers".

The Pru had been more concerned with the cost of complying with the Financial Services Act than it had with the interests

of its customers, the regulator said, Sales people at Prudential Assurance, the corporation's life insurance subsidiary, had conducted misselling while its management had failed to put in place procedures and controls designed to protect customers. The Pru had failed to keep important information about customers and their financial aims and failed to give customers all the right information. It had not acted with due skill, care and diligence and had failed to arrange its compliance

"Prudential Assurance's conduct has fallen substantially below the standards that the public have a right to expect from a regulated firm," the FSA statement said.

The mis-selling referred not to personal pensions, for which the Pru has already been scolded, but to a further arrangement, a with-profits endowment plan called the

Prudential Savings Account. Salespeople sold the product despite the fact that nontaxpaying customers would be taxed more heavily than with an alternative such as a

The revelation of fresh mis-selling by the Pru, which first surfaced in The Independent last May, followed a January compliance visit in which regulators complained they were shadowed by Pru compliance staff who gave hand signals to warn staff when not to speak.

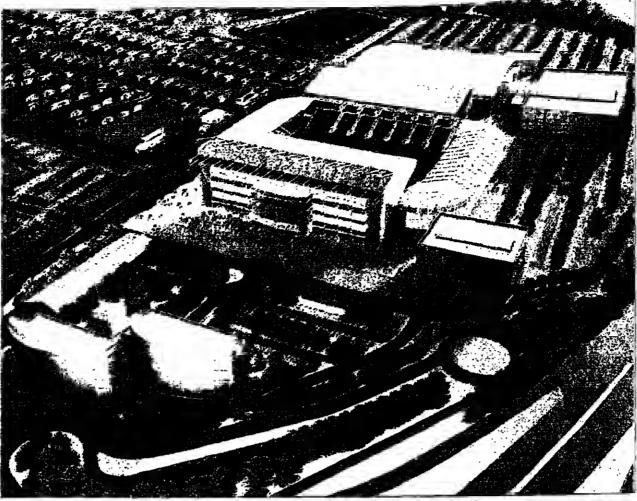
The Pru, which in May insisted misselling of the Savings Account was confined to its Sheffield branch, is now understood to have been forced to extend an internal investigation of the missold product to its entire sales force. Management consultants McKinsey have now been brought in to shake up the company.

The then compliance director, David Linnell, was replaced by Martin Brownstein in March and later left the company in May - a departure which the company insisted was amicable and unconnected to misselling

Further casualties - viewed by some industry observers as fall guys - followed. Jim Sutcliffe, then chief executive of Prudential Assurance, left the company suddenly in September following a disagreement with group chief executive Sir Peter Davis over a radical restructuring plan, thought to have been prompted by continuing regulatory attacks.

Soon after, the insurer was publicly attacked by Helen Liddell, economic secretary to the Treasury, and the FSA's predecessor, the Securities and Investments Board, over its failure to compensate victims of pension misselling, many of whom were overlooked because they had died.

John Elbourne, Mr Sutcliffe's number two at Prudential Assurance since November 1996, yesterday offered a contrite acknowledgement of the Pru's failure in its duty to customers, saying the company was working "extremely hard to ensure problems can be put behind us". He said: "I still believe that the people at the Pru want to be compliant. I think they generally felt they were doing all the right things."



Football club for the future: Leeds United Holdings' vision of its new state-of-the-art £40m arena

Caspian unveils huge Leeds arena plan

Caspian, owner of Leeds United football club, yesterday unveiled plans to create the biggest sporting and entertainment arena in the country after Wemhley. Leeds is spending £40m developing a huge arena next to its Elland Road ground. The new complex will open by 2,000 and hold at least 180 events a year. The 14,000 seater arena will show Leeds Lasers' Superleague ice hockey games and baskethall matches. The rest of the time it will be host to pop concerts. entertainment extravaganzas on ice, hit theatre shows and conferences and exhihitions. City analysts estimate the arena's box office could take around £15m a year, similar to Manchester's huge Nynex centre.

Situated between the M1 and M62 motorways, the 50-acre scheme will include a new 200-hedroom hotel and a range of themed bars and restaurants. Caspian is opening talks with hotel and drinks groups to huild the facilities and its bankers to fi-Outlook, page 21 nance the deal. The plans also involve the

STOCK MARKETS

Dow Jones

Elland Road studium, which will increase the ground's seating capacity from 40,000 tn 45,000.

Lengthy delays in agreeing the deal were linked with the departure of Robert Launders. Caspian's former chief executive. However, Leeds Council has finally agreed to let Caspian acquire the majority of the 50-acre site for £11.3m. The deal includes the acquisition of the freehold of Elland Road and the arena site which is currently a car park. The group plans to take control of the rest of the site shortly. Caspian is changing its name to Leeds United Holdings, reflecting the importance of the

Chris Akers, Leeds chairman said: "This is a big club with a big name. Our aim is to create one of Europe's leading sports, leisure and media groups."

Caspian made a pro-forma loss of £6.2m for the year to June, having spent a net

redevelopment of the West stand at the £11.8m on new players and incurring a12 per cent rise in its wage hill. Since the year end it has also splashed out another £3.5m on players but said it had more money to strengthen manager George Graham's

> Caspian confirmed plans to set up its own pay-TV channel by the start of the next football season. But it has not chosen which broadcaster to team up with and is still in talks with several parties including Granada and BSkvB.

> Leeds continues to talk with other clubs on the Continent to create a joint merchandising and media husiness. It also hopes to sign a deal soon with a Far East group to distribute its club merchandise in

> Leeds plans to take advantage of the growing popularity of its internet website by selling advertising. The site has already attracted 1 million internet surfers a week.

British Gas set to press ahead with price cuts

The gas watchdog, Ofgas, looks set to give British Gas the green light next week to income households largely excluded from reductions. Clare Spottiswoode ulator, is thought to be keen to reach a conclusion on the price package before British Gas plans to implement the cuts on 12 January. Ofgas will give its provisional ruling on the price cuts before Christmas, though the document is unlikely to appear until next week.

Centrica, the demerged British Gas supply husiness, has proposed cuts of around 9 per cent, worth to £28 off the average bill, for 16 million homes which pay by direct debit or settle their accounts promptly. The reductions are the result of drop in transportation charges paid to Transco, the pipeline network. However the proposals would see charges frozen for 1 million homes which use prepaym meters, with very small reductions for further two million low income house holds. British Gas said it would wait for the outcome of the Ofgas probe into prepayment meter charges, but is understood to have asked the regulator to widen the price gap with direct dehit customers.

Next week's consultation paper will clear the main prices cuts to most homes and is expected to endorse British Gas's claim that prepayment meters cost much more to run. The decision would face strong criticism from the Gas Consumers' Council (GCC), which has lobhied to reduce the disparity between different types of customer. John Battle, the industry minister, has also made clear the government's concern that domestic energy competition should? not lead to an increase in "fuel poverty".

It also emerged yesterday that the GCC has complained to Ofgas about new col cerns over domestic competition trials in:

Scotland and the North-east of England. The GCC said it had received 963 complaints from customers who had switched from British Gas to new suppliers, of which almost 400 involved Eastern, one of the : largest independent gas companies. The GCC said some homes had asked to cancel contracts, but had been moved to new

Bridgeman, the director-general of Fair Trad-

ing, and referring the two National Express

Mr Bridgeman advised that neither the

takeover of ScotRail, the train company that

runs services north of the border, nor that of

Central, a franchise which ferries passengers

around the West Midlands, should be sent to

The OFT said that the ScotRail acquisition

should be referred only if National Express did

not divest itself of its coach company Scottish .

Citylink - a move which the panel of experts

cision. Last year the group made a record profit

of £62m on a turnover of £480m. Scottish City-

link contributed a pre-tax profit of £1m on sales;

of just £12m. ScotRail received nearly £300m

Government clearly recognises the benefits that

from the Treasury this year to run services.

NEG will not lose any sleep over the de-

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NEG executives were pleased with the cision concerning Central Trains. mer encyclopaed ta and Mger salesman, web : adhis retail career MAIghan coats in a market, will be pluose than 1900 di

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Mr Childs said he was "disappointed" by the MMC's decision on Scottish Citylink. "We would have preferred some sort of behavioural' undertakings," he added.

Citylink will now be sold to a huyer within:1 franchise agreement.

suppliers against their will. - Andrew Yates **National Express told to**

shed Scottish coach group

acquisitions.

the MMC.

at the MMC endorsed.

Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, has a reputation for championing competition over commercial interests. But, as Randeep Ramesh reveals, yesterday's report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) into National Express' rail and coach empire saw her instincts snubbed.

National Express Group (NEG) would have to sell off its £12m Scottish Citylink operation. which provides long-distance coach services north of the border, Mrs Beckett said. The company runs ScotRail, which operates train services in Scotland.

The decision followed publication by the MMC's report, which concluded there were nine routes where subsidiaries of National Express operated coach services that overlapped with ScotRail train services and that might be expected to lead to "an increase in coach fares compared with current levels".

The MMC also decided that National Express owning Central Trains, which ferries passengers around the West Midlands, and operating local hus services in the area did "not operate against the public interest".

The MMC report vindicates the officials at the Office of Fair Trading (OFT). Just three weeks after taking office. Mrs Beckett flexed her regulatory muscles by overruling John

we are achieving from an integrated transport system," said Colin Childs, NEG's finance?

the next six months and it will be allowed to a increase its scheduled coach services within; Scotland for the remainder of the ScotRail

Jazz FM owners to bid for Melody Radio

Golden Rose Communications, owner of the ailing women's station. Operating losses were radio station, Jazz FM, is understood to have put reduced from £2.5m to £1.1m. in a bid for Melody Radio, the London station controlled by Hanson.

Hanson, which has been refocusing on building materials, put Melody up for sale last month, and a number of companies submitted bids at the end of last week. Melody, an easy listening station which breadcasts on FM, could be worth around £18m, and would present Golden Rose with an opportunity to extend its jazz hrand.

Other hidders could include Capital Radio, which last week lost out to Chris Evans' Ginger Productions in the battle for Virgin Radio, GWR. Scottish and Chrysulis are also possible contenders. Richard Wheatly, group chief executive of Golden Rose, would not comment on Melody, but the company has made no secret of its desire to grow through licence applications and acquisitions.

Mr Wheatly yesterday unveiled hoses before tax of £987,460 for the year to the end of September. Last year's profits of £257,600 were inflated by a £3m gain from the sale of Viva!, the

Golden Rose has been extending the Jazz FM hrand into related merchandise such as records... A new double album compilation is due out in ; January, to co-incide with a hig marketing campaign for the station. A themed restaurant in Liverpool, the Café Jazbar, opened in April, Further a restaurant openings - part of a joint venture with . Regent Inns - will follow next year in London: and the North-west, where Jazz FM broadcasts.

Mr Wheatly, who joined Golden Rose two years. ago, at a time when the group was suffering from its decision to set up Viva!, said vesterday he was 3 pleased that the operating losses had been reduced.

The London Jazz FM station grew revenue by 25 per cent, while advertising sales in the North-!! west franchise were seven per cent higher than? in the previous year. Sponsorship income meanwhile increased by 184 per cent to £704,000, s and several blue-chip companies became sponsors of the two slations for the first time.

Bass sells off 1,400 pubs in £564m deal

Bass announced yesterday the sale of most of its tenanted pub estate for £564m as part of the massive restructuring of the group which will see it launch a £850m share buy back and still have room for a £1 bn-plus acquisition. Andrew Yates reports on a deal which brings together two of the most successful figures in the restaurant industry.

Bass is selling 1,428 pubs to Roger Myers, who created Pelican, the Cafe Rouge and Dome restaurant group and Hugh Osmond. one of men behind the success of Pizza Ex-

The pair are poised to embark on a shakeup of the estate involving the creation of several new pub restaurant brands and themed

Mr Osmond said yesterday: "Brewers have heen spending money expanding their sexy pub managed while the tenanted estates have been neglected. Some of these pubs have not been changed for 20 years. There are a lot of opportunities to improve their performance.

Bass has now raised a total of £800m in the last few days with the sale of the pub estate coming hot on the heels of the disposal of its Gala bingo husiness. It plans to huy back £850m of its shares, or 11 per cent of its market value. However it still has a sizeable war chest and is understood to still be looking for hotel acquisitions in the Far East.

Bass will now concentrate on expanding its managed pub estate, and rolling out hrands such as All Bar One and its O'Neill's Irish bars.

City analysts believe that Bass got a

Mark Puleikis, drinks analyst at Merrill Lynch said: "Bass could still easily go out and spend £1 hn tomorrow if it wanted to. It has done well to get out of two of its two weakest husinesses for a good price."

However some City observers believe that the decision by Bass to give money back to shareholders suggests that it has run out of acquisition targets. "It is a surprise they gave this money back to shareholders so soon. It shows that they could not find anything else to spend it on," said one analyst.

Mr Osmond has made several million pounds from selling shares in Pizza Express and My Kinda Town, the Henry J Bean's group he was also involved with. Now he has put most of this personal fortune into the pub venture. "I haven't got much left," he said.

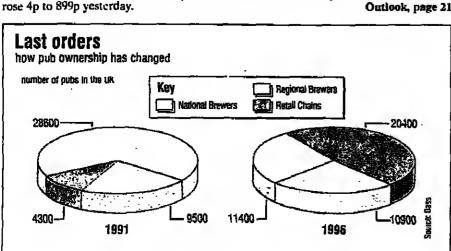
Luke Johnson, Mr Osmond's partner at Pizza Express, is also taking a stake in the husiness. Mr Osmond is expected to step down as an executive director of Pizza Express to concentrate on the new pub husi-

He will be joined at the new pub company by Alan McIntosh, who worked with Mr Osmond on the flotation of Topps Tiles earlier this year and was described yesterday as "a good old Scottish accountant."

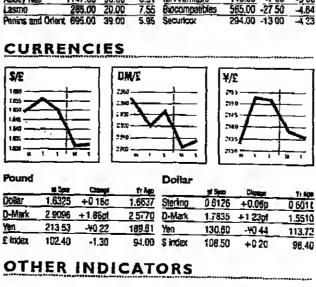
The partners are backed by BT Capital Partners, the private equity arm of Bankers Trust, and the new pubs are likely to be added to the 845 strong Phoenix pub estate Mr Osmond bought from Nomura, the Japanese hanking giant, last month.

Randy Shure of BT Capital said: "The hrewers are nearly at the end of their disposal programme and they have saved the best for last. The husiness is a tremendous cash cow and we believe we can create real growth by putting the cash back in the business." The new group is likely to be floated on the stock good price for the pubs and its share price market within five years.

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INTEREST RATES UK 10 year gift Price (p) (Ag (p) % (Cope CURRENCIES



285.45 1.70 368.10 RPI 159.60 3.70 153.91

-0.08

23.58 GDP 113.90 3.80 109.73 Jan

source: Bloomberg

Cathy Newman

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OUTLOOK ON THE FSA'S CENSURE OF THE PRUDENTIAL. TWO TEST CASES OF COMPETITION POLICY, AND THE MINIMUM WAGE

About as damning as it comes for the Pru

The wheels of officialdom gried slow but the wonderful thing is the way they usually get there io the eod. Yesterday's public censure of the Pru over the andes of its 5,000 strong direct sales force by the Financial Services Authority, is about as damning as they come.

This partly reflects the inability of the FSA to levy fines on those whose cooduct falls below acceptable standards. In the absence of an exemplary fine to demonstrate the degree of its unhappiness, the FSA is prone to throw both the book and the thesaurus, calculating that the damage to commercial reputation will be just as grave.

Think of a financial instrument - life assurance, unit trusts, peosions - and the Pru sells it. Think of a regulatory shortcoming and the Pru has been guilty of it - failure to train, deep seated and longstanding management failures, a cultural disposition against compliance, unsuitable sales, failure to remedy previously identified defects. You sort of get the picture.

The man from the Pru, Sir Peter Davis, has been preparing for the onslaught since the FSA's hit team went in last January appointing compliance directors, overhauling the structure of the business and finally throwing Jim Sutcliffe, head of the domestic life assurance husiness overboard in September and taking direct control of the UK retail businesses himself. As a final olive branch, he even volunteered to join the Personal Investment Authority, something his predecessor, Mick New-

march could not bring himself to do.

But the question that is rather left hang-

ing is whether Sir Peter could and should have acted earlier. By May of oext year he will have been at the Pru for three years. Many of the shortcomings that the FSA identified in January were the same failings it had noted in 1995 and 1996. The reason for yesterday's public censure lies in the Pru's failure to act oo a stream of earlier warnings.

If there is a fig leaf in the statement of censure it is the FSA's acknowledgement of the wide-ranging corrective action embarked on by the present management. This was enough to lift the spirits of the market, which took it as a clean hill of health for the oew look Pru and decided to ignore the FSA's more ominous reference to "the extent to which redress is appropriate" in respect of past business which has been missold.

This is a long way from a ringing endorsement of the new regime. The Pru and Sir Peter have been put on notice that further failures on the scale of those which have previously taken place will not be tolerated. Now that it is part of the PIA, the Pru can be fined and now that Sir Peter has taken personal charge the buck will stop with him.

Mrs Beckett scores one out of two

It was a day of mixed fortunes yesterday for Margaret Beckett. The President of the Board of Trade must rightly have felt rather pleased with herself as she woke up to the oews that Bass is selling off 1,428 pubs - the best part of one-third of its estate to a trio of cotrepreneurs best known for bringing pizzas and French fast food to the

She may have been feeling a little less sprightly wheo the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's report into the National Express takeover of two rail franchises was published a few hours later.

To take brewing first, Mrs Beckett has now been vindicated cotirely in her decision to block the Bass takeover of rival brewer Carlsberg Tetley, a deal which would have given it almost 40 per cent of the

In order to obtain regulatory clearance, Bass had offered to dispose of a large chunk of its pub estate. However, yesterday's deal suggests it was contemplating such a move anyway for commercial reasons. Add in the rationalisation of brewing capacity that has also taken place since the block was put on Bass and the picture is one of a more efficient production and more competitive retailing of beer without the need for one company to control four in every ten pints

The MMC'a decision to wave through National Express's acquisioon of Central Trains and ScotRail provided it disposes of its competing Scottish hus company, Citylink, makes less pleasant reading. Mrs Beckett referred both hids against the advice of the Director-general of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman. In the case of ScotRail, he actually suggested that any concerns could be overcome through the sale of Citylink. All in all, then, Mrs Beckett has wasted six months of everyone's time.

Maximising benefits of minimum wage

Most reasonable people can accept that there is a good case to be made for the introduction of a national minimum wage. The arguments, as the Commons demonstrated yesterday when the Government's Bill had its first reading, concern the specifics. One issue is the level. Is the low pay commission going to recommend something closer to the unions' bizarre target of half median male earnings of above £4? Or to the employers' pitch for some-

thing less than £3.50? The answer matters because the impact of a minimum wage on jobs depends very precisely on how its level compares to how much employees are worth to their emplayers. Sometimes the introduction of o minimum in low-paid areas can actually increase employment by improving the incentive for people to take jobs. This is precisely what the Chancellor wants it to

Too high a level, on the other hand, will cost some low-paid workers their jobs. If their pay reflects their productivity, a higher minimum wage will price them out of work. This problem is most likely to arise with young and inexperienced employees whose productivity is genuinely low. The evidence from

clear: too high a minimum for people in their late teens and early twenties can dramatically raise youth unemployment.

This is why some members of the Government and low pay commission are in favour of an exemption for young people. Apart from anything else, it would make the welfare-to-work programme for young people more expensive and less effective if they had to be paid too high min-

imum wage. The economics dimensions of the choice are clear. Either there has to be a youth exemption to the national minimum or the level must be set low enough not to price young people out of work. The former looks unfair and is politically unattractive. The latter makes the policy less effective for the rest of the workforce.

A likely compromise is to link an exemption for the under-26s to the provision of training, which would make it clear why they did not yet qualify for the minimum. The trouble with this is that it is much harder to police - any canny employer would set up a training programme that satisfied the letter of the law, and the potencial for disputes would be enormous.

So the hard choice facing the Government is economic and administrative common sense versus political practicalities. But so important is it to Gordon Brown to demonstrate that he is getting more people into jobs that he is unlikely to opt for a versioo of the minimum wage that risked putting young people out of work. The economists will win this one.

Jobless

divides

expert

opinion

Unemployment can fall

further from its current

17-year low without

re-igniting inflation,

according to some

optimists about

improvements in

the jobs market.

Not so, says a new

report which claims

the jobless rate has

got as low as it can.

controversy.

Diane Coyle, Economics

Editor, reports on the

Unemployment below the cur-

rent rate of 7.1 per cent would

be unsustainable, even though

the threshold below which falls

in johlessness trigger inflation

has fallen in the past decade.

The evidence for this claim, in

a report published today by the

Employment Policy Institute.

will disappoint those who have

argued that deregulation and flexibility in the jobs market have

significantly reduced the "structural" unemployment rate. With figures due today likely to show both the headline rate

and the more reliable survey-

based measure of unemploy-

ment still falling, the optimists

will point to the fact that pay ris-

the tight jobs market. Econo-

mists expect average carnings

growth to have picked up slight-

ly, but it will remain at around

4.5 per cent despite the fact that

unemployment has fallen to its

The authors of the new re-

rate

Burton reveals chief at Debenhams made £2m profit on shares

The chief executive of the Debenhams department stores, which are set to be demerged from the **Burton Group next** month, received £2.63m last year including salary and profits from share options. However, as Nigel Cobe. City Correspondent, reports, the sale was due to personal reasons and does not reflect his view of Debenhams' prospects as a separately quoted mpany.

Terry Green made a profit of almost £2m on share options cashed in last March, according to the Burton annual report published yesterday. This was in addition to his annual pay of £662,000, a rise of almost 16 per cent.

However, the company denied that Mr Green's decision

to sell almost all his options reflected a lack of confidence to Debenhams' future prospects. It is understood that Mr Green was recently divorced and has bought another house.

Mr Green, and the rest of the Debenhams board, will be allocated fresh share options in Debenhams though the levels have not yet been announced. Other Burton directors will be able to carry over their share options. The biggest beneficiary is John Hoerner, the Burtoo chief executive who will be the chief executive of Arcadia, the re-named multiples business. He holds options worth more than £3m.

It also emerged yesterday that Peter Jarvis, the former Whitbread chief executive who will be the non-executive chairman of Debenhams, will be paid an annual salary of £170,000 for two days' work. Mr Jarvis defended the pay package, saying it had been decided by the remuneration committee. The annual report also showed that Stuart Rose, who left Burton after failing to

win a top job in the de-merged group, was paid compensation

The details came as the listing particulars of Debenhams were published. These showed that Mr Green would be paid £350,00 as chief executive. The four executive directors will receive an annual bonus of approximately two thirds of their basic annual salary. The share split will see Burton shareholders receive one Debenhams share and two shares in Arcadia for every eight Burtoo shares held.

Debenhams plans to spend £350m on store modernisacco and open 10 new stores over the next five years. ft will introduce more designer hrands and hopes to improve still further its margins which already stand at 10 per cent.

An emergency meeting to vote on the de-merger will be held oo 22 January. Shares in the two companies are expected to start trading on 26 January.

higher to 143,25p



Burton shares edged 2.25p Debenhams dun: Terry Green, chief executive (left) and Mathew Roberts, finance director

Photograph: Rui Xavier

Second-attempt at float to value Monsoon's founder at £300m

mer encyclopaedia and sanfinger salesman, who started his retail career selling Afghan coats in a London market, will be worth more than £300m when his Monsoon fashion chain comes to the stock market early next year. As Nigel Cope, City Correspondent reports, t is the group's second attempt at a float.

in 1973, owns 96 per cent of the group, which is expected to be valued at around £350m when it comes to the main market. He will be selling a quarter of his stake, realising £87m, but says he does not really need the money.

"I'm not broke now," he said. "I'm not going to go on a great spending spree. I have simple hobbies, like sailing. But I'm not into big

Monsoon pulled its float in July last year after a disagreement with .

oo Monsooo's largest shareholder. the Malta-based Sycamore Trust, which then held 67 per cent of Monsoon's stock.

banded with the stake acquired by two Guernsey-based trusts operated oo Mr Simon's behalf. NatWest Markets is acting as

That trust has since been dis-

the company's broker this time and the value of the business has soared from its £250m valuation 18 months

Monsoon was founded by Mr and childrenswear.

Peter Simon, who founded Monsoon its broker BZW. The dispute centred Simon, 48, who was born in Sri Lanka during a monsion - hence the

> The first store opened in London's Beauchamp Place, specialising in garments sourced from the Far East. He had discovered the shoat, a crossbetween a sheep and a goat on a trip to Gozo. Local workers developed a shaggy coat which Mr Simon began importing to Britain.

Monsoon now has 103 stores in the UK and a further 24 overseas. selling women's clothing, accessories

Mr Simon said that Monsoon planned to open around 30 new stores a year and could double io size without saturating the market.

Monsoon also owns the Accessorize format, which sells fashion accessories such as jewellery. hats, and cosmetics. It has 179 hranches, of which 103 are within branches of Monsoon. The Accessorize chain has four stores overseas.

The group made operating profits of £25.4m on sales of £1117.9m last year. It has increased trad-

ing profits in each of the last 12 years. No new money is being raised via the float and Monsoon's staff and customers will not be able to buy the shares until after it has floated as the es have remained low despite shares are only being placed with institutions.

Mr Simon said that he would have liked to have come to the market via an open offer but that the group's financial advisers had said it would prove too costly.

Mr Simon said the float would cnable Monsoon to retain and attract

port, Ray Barrell and Rehecca Riley of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, say this is due mainly to the effect of the strong pound m keeping pay and price rises low. This, rather than a funda-

lowest for 17 years.

mental change in the structure of the jobs market, accounts for the surprisingly subdued wage growth, they say. This is not to say that the sustainable unemployment rate has

Japao. oearly offsetting a not fallen at all, Looking at longterm flows into and out of uoemployment, the paper puts it at around 7 per cent now compared to 8-9 per cent during the 1980s.

The improvement is due mainly to an increase in the size of the skilled workforce since the late 1980s. The effort to get more young people into higher education has significantly increased the number of gradnates entering the workforce a coordusioo that will cheer the present Government, which is also emphasising the importance of colucation and training.

Government reforms cheer South Korean markets

South Korea'a stock market and currency continued their cautious recovery yesterday, as confidence grew in the government's resolve to carry out the economic reforms agreed as part of the rescue package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

· Share prices plummeted last week, after the leading candidate in tomorrow's presidential election, Kim Dae Jung, said that he would renegotiate stringent conditions attached by the IMF to its \$57ba bail-out. He reversed his position over wockend, and since then the Morean government has taken a series of market opening and liberalisation measures.

The Seoul stock exchange's composite index rose 4.78 per cent to 404.26 yesterday, despite news that a large pharmaceutical company, Shin Poong, had heen suspended from trading after it defaulted on repay-

The Korean won closed at 1.425 to the dollar compared with 1,564 on Monday, when the government lifted the trading band and allowed the currency to float freely.

The most immediate causes of market optimism were a series of financial reform measures announced by the government in compliance with the IMF agreement

the UK surged for the fifth year running in 1996, according to official figures, although new UK investment overseas fell below the previous year's level. The statistics will comfort those who feared the Asian crisis spelled doom for inward

Foreign investment in

New direct investment by foreign companies in Britain amounted to £16.1bn in 1996.

investment prospects.

Diane Coyle, Economics

Editor, explains.

This was the highest inflow since 1990 - and a £3.4bn increase over the previous year despite the first leg of the pound's rise against other currencies and growing concerns about Britain opting out of the single European currency.

The pattern of flows reveals that European investors have become increasingly more inportant to the UK compared with both Asian and American investment. Despite their high profile. Japanese and other Asian projects have amounted to only a small part of the total.

The rise took total foreign investment to £139,9hn, and increased foreign companies' earnings in the UK to a record

Luckily for the balance of payments total. British companies carned much more from their investments overseas. Earnings rose by £3.4bn to £27.3hn in 1996. However, the rise in new

Overseas investment in UK continues to rise

UK investment abroad was 20 per cent lower than the record level it had reached in 1995, at £22hn. This took the total to £209, thn ~ still in excess of the value of British assets owned by foreign companies. Britain remained one of the world's higgest outward investors as well as one of the biggest re-

cipients of inward investment. There was a substantial fall in British investment in North America last year, although investment in other European Union countries and developing countries increased. The Netherlands was the most popular destination for British businesses, followed by France. emphasising the growing importance of the European

European compaoies in turn increased their stake in the UK, led by the Netherlands and Switzerland. New investment by Americao companies dimioished, although the US cootinued to be the biggest investor with an inflow amounting to £7bn.

Japanese investments in the UK had a book value of just over £8bn at the end of last year, on which Japan earned just £147m during the year.

Japanese inward investment has been far lower than, say, Australian investments during the past five years. But 1996 did see a new inflow of £390m from £379m reduction to investment the previous year.

High-profile projects by other individual South-east Asian countries remained too small relative to the total to register in the aggregate figures, but new inflows from all the other Asian countries excluding Japan added up to £319m. well above 1995's increase of £190m. This left their value at the end of tast year at £2.5bn, or about the same as the value of Swedish and Danish invest-

ody Radio

. . .

h group

1. Taylor - 1785

 $(x,y) = (x,y) \cdot A$

Decision time over Burton

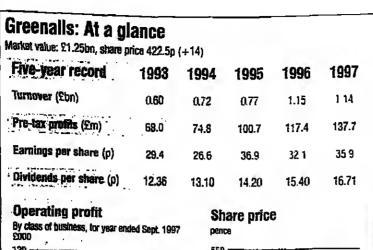
It is nearly make your mind up time for shareholders in Burton Group. The demerger of the Debenhams department stores will take place in a month's time and investors, who have already been advised by this column not to sell ahead of the split, now need to decide whether to hang on to shares in Debenhams, the remaining multiples business, to be renamed Arcadia, or both.

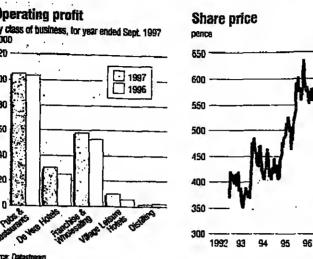
Following the demerger, shareholders will receive two Debenhams shares and one Arcadia share for every eight Burton shares held. After yesterday's publication of the listing particulars, analysts were upgrading their estimates of the relative valuations. Some are targeting a price of 172p for the two parts, compared with yesterday's closing price of 143.25p, up 2.25p. They value Debenhams at 112p - a 15 per cent premium to the market - with Arcadia accounting for the remaining 60p. The choice for investors is between Debenhams, a highly rated husiness with a solid track record, and Arcadia, which potentially has more upside but also carries more risk as its record is patchy.

Dehenhams certainly looks the safer bet. Its margins are already running at 10 per cent and every additional percentage point gained adds another £10m to profits. The chief executive, Terry Green, reckons there is much more to go for. He plans to boost profits hrands, is more for hraver souls who by rationalising the supplier base as well as eutting hack on discounting to spend more weeks of the year selling al full price. A £350m capital expenditure programme will pay for 10 new stores in the next five years and upgrade the remainder of the 88-strong chain.

At the multiples husiness, which ineludes Top Shop, Principles and Dorothy Perkins, the challenges are of relief yesterday. Growing concerns greater. Margins are only 5 per cent and the chief executive. Iohn Hoerner, is likely to shuffle the store portfolio by converting less profitable formats into the fledgling Racing Green brand, Mr Hoerner also wants to shift selling space towards womenswear, which already accounts for 60 per cent of sales.

The challenge will be to avoid the problem which has dogged the multi-





resolved a fresh set of troubles seem to emerge elsewhere.

So hang on to shares in Debenhams, even though the valuation could soon look quite full. Arcadia, with its weaker are seeking a recovery play.

Green shoots at **Greenalls**

Investors in Greenalls breathed a sigh that its pub estate in the North-west was going from bad to worse following a warning on summer trading, had sent the share price spiralling downwards in the last few months. But Greenalls' announcement that sales are beginning to recover calmed traders' nerves and the shares jumped 14p to 422.5p.

Nevertheless. Greenalls' problems are far from over. It is increasingly clear ples in the past, which is that whenever that the group paid too much for the the difficulties of one format are Boddington pub estate two years ago.

It has been saddled with more than its fair share of poor houses, which are struggling to compete with the thensed pubs that are springing up around the

That said, Greenalls is doing the right things to overcome the difficulties. Having been guilty of underspending on its own hrands, the group is doing all it can to catch up. It has sold of shifting some of the poorly performing managed ouders to its tenanted estate is already paying off.

Even so, the investment will take time to bear fruit and Greenalls may have difficulty getting good locations in the scramble for new sites. All this means the short-term earnings oudook for the puh estate remains subdued.

Greenalls' leisure husinesses should more than take up the slack. Its De Vere hotel operation and travel lodges are going great guns, buoyed by the upswing in the provincial hotel market which still has some way to go. The business is another jewel, and a chain isn't doing already.

of fitness clubs is on the way. Analysts forecast current year profits of around £170m. putting the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of less than 10. If Greenalls' management fails to come up with the goods, industry predators are lurking. Good value.

Pound hammers Kenwood

Shareholders in Kenwood must be furning. A year ago, the troubled electronic appliance maker received an informal approach from Pifeo, its smaller but more successful rival. At the time. Kenwood's shares traded at anound 200p. The talks broke down, however. and since then Kenwood's shares have plummeted. They closed down 6.5p at 1115p vesterday.

Not that Kenwood can complain. Interim results showed a to per cent slide in sales and operating profits. Chief executive Colin Gordon, the former Grand Met man who took over in February, argues that the strong pound wiped £1.4m off profits. Given that the currency is actually squeezing export sales - rather than just reducing the value of overseas earnings - this amounts to saying that Kenwood would be fine if only it wasn't doing so badly.

To be fair. Mr Gordon seems to have the right idea. He's farming out basic manufacturing to subcontractors. culling unprofitable lines, and hiking prices for the more popular products. This should have been done five years earlier, but that's hardly his fault.

Is this a turning point? Certainly. margins should pick up as cost-curling off some of its worst pubs and the policy and price increases feed through. But any recovery will be slow and painful, Currencies will continue to hurt and Kenwood remains burdened by a £47m mountain of short-term debt. Mizushi, its Italian subsidiary, is being run at breakeven beenuse it is too expensive to close and no one wants to buy it.

Brokers forecast full-year profits for Kenwood of fam. implying a forward p/e ratio of 12. That leaves the shares looking fairly valued. Shareholders can hang on in the hope that, now the size of its target has halved. Pifco plucks up the courage to mount a hostile bid. But it's hard to see what a predator Village Leisure hotel and health club could do that the current management

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

LEA **PATERSON**



Do I hear the rumbles of discentent at the Department of Trade and Industry? The DTI, rumour has it, is set to lose its first senior civil servant since Labour's election victory. John Michell, the director of oil and gas, is understood to be taking early retirement at the tender age of 55. Sources say that Mr Michell plans to pursue a better-paid career in the

private sector. Mr Michell's decision to leave has, according to some colleagues, nothing to do with the change of Government. Apparently Mr Michell got on like a house on fire" with John Battle, the industry minister. But others pointed to recent shifts in emphasis over consumer policy, with Mr Battle pushing for guarantees that the poor would not lose out following the introduction of domestic electricity and gas competition. It seems that Mr Michell, regarded by many as one of the main architects of Tory energy policy, has been absent from recent meetings with the minister. One source reckons Mr Michell has been "a bit of a fish out of water since the election.

Mr Michell, a career civil servant, came to prominence three years ago over claims that he had received red roses from Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator. The allegations (she did send him flowers, but not roses) came at the height of the "cold war" between the regulator and British Gas. More recently, relations have thawed considerably, a development for which Mr Michell can claim much of the credit.

A heart-warming seasonal touch from the New Labour Treasury. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has departed from the normal departmental practice of putting an ancient snowy oil painting or cartoon of some distinguished deceased chancellor on the Christmas card in favour of up-to-the-minute drawings by children related to Treasury staff.

Two winners, Nicholas Gibbs, aged 7, and 9-year-old Kier Ferguson, were awarded prizes at a ceremony at Number 11 Downing

Street last week. Along with a tour of Downing Street, they each got a £50 voucher from Toys'RUs and had their original artwork framed, gaining an important early lesson in the rewards of hard work. One prize-winning picture shows multi-coloured stars. The other has Father Christmas scattering cash from a saek in his sleigh.

On reflection, it's not a very New Labour theme, but who can blame the Chancellor for being unable to resist such a charming scene?

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Angeles.

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Charles Fry, the workaholic chief executive of Johnson Fry, is standing down after 28 years in which he has huilt up one of the most successful financial advisers in the country, now worth £20m, from scratch.

Mr Fry, grandson of the former England crickel captain CB Fry, will have plenty to do, with a large portfolio of his own to manage.

He founded the financial adviser in 1969 with his partner Michael Johnson - who dropped out of the business a few years later - as a two-man business. Within 20 years the company was ready to float, and set about making the company's name as the biggest arranger of Business Expansion Schemes.

It was soon snapped up by London Investment Trust, which ran into severe financial problems. Soon Johnson Fry was the only viable part of the husiness.

The company was again hit in 1995 when the Government put an end to BESs. Like a chameleon, Mr Fry again transformed the company. Rebecca Thomas, aged just 33, was appointed as managing director and set up the top-performing Slater Growth fund - among others. Mr Fry will stay on for two days a week to give his sage advice on marketing. But meanwhile he's having a well-earned rest in

For a thrusting powerhouse of accountancy and management consultancy, when it comes to marketing the mighty Arthur Andersen has always been a hit more backward about coming forward than some of its rivals. After all, when revenue has grown at rates comfortably into double digits for year after year, it is presumably easy to let the figures speak for them-

But now, possibly feeling threatened by the Big Six mega-mergers involving KPMG, Ernst & Young, Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse, it has appointed one Matthew P. Gonring to the grand-sounding post of managing partner-communications and integrating marketing (whatever the latter is). A veteran of government and airlines, 42-year-old Mr Gonring will report directly to Jim Wadia, the Chicago-based firm's first non-US head man.

One can only wonder how this "communications management" expert will mesh with John Newton, the jovial, jazz-loving City insider who has looked after the firm's affairs in the UK for as long as anybody can remember and is much more of the nudge-and-a-wink

Demand for new mortgages eases

The demand for new mortgages has begun to fall for the first time since 1995, according to figures released yesterday by Barclays Mortgages. The data adds to earlier economic evidence from the Treasury which has eased pressure for a further interest rate rise. Andrew Verity reports.

Barclays said it believed the housing market had now corrected from the slump of the early 1990s. But it added that further strong growth was now

director, said: "The slight fall in lending should not be a cause for concern. Growth so far this year has been very healthy and we knew that the surges we saw last year could not be sustained long-term.

Waning confidence is probably due to the year's interest at least 2 percentage points berate rises. People need to realise that rates have now probably building societies such as Bradpeaked and it is safe to consider moving ur buying a house for the first time.

Lending in November at Bradford & Bingley.

Care UK (F)

Eoclidian (1)

First Choice (F)

Kern River (F)

Securious (F)

Jaiversal Salvage (N

foad III

Casplan Group (SP)

COMPANY RESULTS

More business is still being done compared with last year, but the growth of husiness has slowed down sharply. As recently as Seplember, mortgage lending was over 10 per cent higher than in 1996. November was the first month which which lending fell year-on-year since

country's higgest mortgage lender with a 20 per cent share of the market, is boosting the interest paid on savings accounts Jim Chadwick, marketing from I January by at least 0.25 points. The savings rate rise follows a similar boost to Halifax's variable rate mortgages, to 8.7 per cent, following the Bank of England's quarter-point rate rise in early November.

But Halifax's rates on savings and current accounts still remain low those of supermarkets and ford & Bingley. For amounts less than £5,000, its top rate is 4.3 per cent a year - against 6.8 per cent

EPS

1 406m (0 538m) 3.95p (1 56p) 2 0p (2.0p)

3 6o 14 9ot nd (3.25b)

2 46p (5.52p) 1 65p (1 65p)

2.7g (-0.25p) 0.4p mi

Dividend

Turnover £ Pre-tax £

therdeen Assel Man (F) 22 31m (19,63m) 3,59m (6,08m) 2 64p (5 08p) 3 75p

1 02m (1.01m) 22 0m (9.3m)

81 46m (97 63m) 2 2m (3 3m)

37 36m (26,09m) 1 0m (2 3m)

(F) - Final (I) - Interior 1 EPS is pre-exceptionals "Dividend to be paid as a FID

23.82m (2.27m) 2.2m (-0.42m)

5 37m (4.67m) 0.78m (0.185m) -0.3p (0.5p)

29m (2.7m)

78 95m (103 5m) -0.526m (-63.45m)n3 (-27 4p) - (-)

23.24m (22.78m) -3.27m (-6.23m) -1.52p (-2.27p] - [-)

300.46m (57.05m) -40.6m (-73.8m) -0.37p (-0.82pt - (-)

10 30m (7 66m) 0.396m (0.199m) \$ 68a [-]

27.57m (21.67m) 12.34m (3.52m) 25.88p (6.79p) 1.25p (1.0p)

977 Om (951.1m) 157 3m (148 7m) 41.72p (40 28p) 16 7p (15.4p)

1 35bn (1 25bn) 31.4m (107.4m) 2.7p (11.6p) 1.74p (1 56p)

-1 12m [-2 46m1 -4.15p (-14 2) - (-)

slipped to £6.7bn, down by 4 per cent from its October level of £7.0bn. The company's mortgage index, which measures how much business has been done by all mortgage lenders, showed a slight fall of under 1 per cent last month in comparison with October last year.

September 1995. Meanwhile, Halifax, the

First Choice, the UK's third-largest holiday maker, confirmed yesterday that the holiday market was booming as it announced its best ever start to the new season with summer bookings up a quarter

compared with last year. The group also plans to capitalise

on the growing popularity of cruises by offering its 1.6 million customers new holidays in the Mediterranean

for summer 1999. The announcement comes a week after rival Airtours announced its bookings were storming ahead of

First Choice's underlying pre-tax profits more than doubled to £22m in the year to October. But the discovery of an accountancy error under the previous management team wiped £8.6m off

- Andrew Yates

Government borrowing rises Ernst & Young passes KPMG

The Government borrowed £2.3bn in November. Although this was a little more than the City had expected, it left the total for the financial year so far at £4.8bn and easily on course for the Treasury's target of £9.5bn for the full financial year.

Some economists believe the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, could do even better, so tough has he been at cracking down on public expenditure. Spending by government departments is down I per cent this year, rather than rising 1.7 per cent as forecast - and this despite inflation that has been higher than expected when Kenneth Clarke, the former chancellor, set the current cush totals for public spending.

Jonathan Lovnes, an economist at HSBC Markets, said: "Barring a very large splurge at is planning to merge, to become the end of the year, it now looks the world's second-largest certain that spending will under-

in the current year. lower revenues accounted for the somewhat disappointing November figure for the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR). Total government tax receipts for the first eight months of 1997/98 were 5.2 per cent lower than the same

period a year earlier.

PSBR could be as low as £5bn

Ernst & Young has leapfrogged KPMG, the firm with which it accountancy firm, with total shoot the official forecasts fees for the past year of \$9.1bn significantly."Adam Cole at (£5.6hnt, according to figures James Capel, predicted the

The firm, headed in the UK by Nick Land, reached the With spending reined in, runner-up position through recording a rise in fee income of 16.7 per cent. This was the only increase in revenues that approached the 19 per cent posted by Andersen Worldwide, the global number one, says International Accounting Bulletin.

The journal, which published its annual accountancy - Dione Coyle firm ranking yesterday, points

but spending stays on target in accountancy firm rankings

the bottom line.

out that, although Andersen faces losing its top spot if the E&Y/KPMG merger gues ahead, it continues to grow faster than any of its main rivals. Last year, the combined revenues of the two business units just published.

Arthur Andersen and Andersen Consulting - totalled \$11.3bn, KPMG saw revenues rise 11.1 per cent to \$9bn. Compers & Lybrand, in

fourth place, saw fees rise 111.7 per cent, to \$7.5bn, while sixthplaced Price Waterhouse, the firm it is planning to merge with. recorded a 12 per cent rise to \$5.6hn. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu was in tifth place with fees of \$7.4bn,

US markets boosted as

Signs that US inflation remains tame boosted the US financial markets yesterday by removing any residual fear that the Federal Reserve might raise interest rates at its last Open Markets Committee meeting of the year. Consumer prices rose just ft.1 per cent in November, trimming the annual inflation rate to 1.8 per cent. "Core" prices, excluding volatile food and energy components, also rose 0.1 per cent during the month. A 0.7 per cent drop in transport prices thanks to lower air fares explained the smaller-than-expected increase.

Wall Street economists expressed relief that early signs of pressure on wages had not fed through to prices yet, although some remain convinced the Fed will have to raise rates during the first few months of 1998 as inflationary pressure build in the jobs market. Separate figures showed new housebuilding starts up unexpectedly last month. The number of new homes started climbed 0.8 per cent, reaching an annual rate of 1.53 million units. Low long-term interest rates are boosting the housing market.

RBS takeover clears hurdle

The Department of Trade and Industry yesterday cleared the Royal Bank of Scotland Group's proposed £630m takeover of Birmingham Midshires Building Society, RBS, Britain ninth-largest bank, said in August it would buy Birmingham Midshires to increase its branch network in England and its mortgage lending throughout the UK. The acquisition must still he approved by Birmingham Midshires' members and the Financial Services Authority, the financial regulator that will come into being next year. Analysts had not expected a referral since the combination would result in less than 5 per cent of the UK mortgage market.

Profits on target at Wickes

Wickes, the building materials company, yesterday said it expected operating profit for the year to 31 December to be in line with company expectations given the sales performance to date and the "successful" control of costs. Wickes said market conditions "remained satisfactory" during the second half nf the year, adding that like-for-like sales growth in its UK business for the 48 weeks to 29 November was 10,2 per cent-"As anticipated, like-for-like sales growth in the second half of 1997 was slower than that achieved in the first half as the company traded against stronger second-half 1996 sales comparatives." Wickes said.

Peter Black buys Ferrosan

Peter Black Holdings, the healthcare and footwear group. has bought Ferrosan tUK) Ltd from Ferrosan AS of Denmark for a maximum consideration of around £35m. Both Ferrosan and Peter Black Healthcare are suppliers of vitamins, minerals and supplements to the UK market. The deal is being funded in part by placing 5 million new Peter Black shares at 370p each, raising around £18.5m. In the year ended 31 December 1996, Ferrosan (UK) had turnover and pretax profit of £19.9m and £2.3m, and adjusted net assets at that date were £4.5m.

Portfolio bought up

Liberty International Holdings has bought the balance of 30 per cent of Portfolio Fund Management it did not already own. "Portfolio is the leading specialist fund of funds unit trust manager," said Liberty.

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Share buy-back plans leave the City awash with cash

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

The stock market is in danger mation group. The largesse of London as undervalued the Lehman Brothers produced a The Anglo-Norwegian healthof becoming awash with moncy. Share buy-backs and the tendency for predators to cash into the system at an increasing rate and encouraging

blue chips to romp ahead. As if celebrating Bass' decision to reward its shareholders, Footsie advanced 81.6 points to 5,203,4.

After selling its tenanted pubs the hrewing group declared its intention of returning £850m through the increasingly popular "B" shares route, which does not disadvantage small share-

around include Diageo, the international drinks cocktail Colloids chemicals group. which comes to market today, and Reuters, said to be keen

the three tops £5bn.

With cost savings assuming increasing importance in curloss around hard currency rent corporate thinking and rather than shares is pumping companies happy to assume a much higher deht ratio, the tide of share buy-backs, which has flowed strongly in the past few years, is bound to become even more powerful.

Takeovers are also contributing to the emharrassment of riches, Merrill Lynch's move for Mercury Asset Management represents another £3.1hn cash injection. Other cash bids include the Swissbased Richemont's £1bn offer for the outstanding 30 per cent of luxury goods group Others sprinkling cash Vendome and the US Her-

> With the coffers of many domestic institutions over flowing rounds, put on 24.5p to 770p.

wall of money argument is becoming difficult to counter.

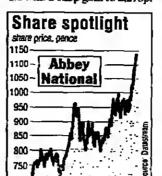
Once again, the buying interest is being concentrated on blue chips. Supporting indices had the invidious experience of failing to register advances.

Abbey National led the Footsie charge, soaring 90p to 1.147p. The shares had a typically order-driven volatile close, moving from 89p to 71p before selling for a 90p gain. Other financials were strong. Bank of Scotland rose 27p to 584p and National Westminster Bank 46p to 1,045p. Alliance & Leicester

jumped 37.5p to 831p, helped by a suggested SBC Warburg switch from Northern Rock, off cules £1bn strike at the Allied 4.5p off at 559.5p. Halifax, where stories of returning cash to shareholders are going the

range of share targets. care group had, at one time, SmithKline Beecham moved towards the Lehman's ex- tion at last week's Footsie pected 700p, gaining 23p to 651; Zeneca, given a 2,550p objective, put on 45p to 2,028p. Talk of a US hid was another influence in the SB advance:

Nycomed Amersham celebrated today's arrival in Footsie with a 125p gain to 2,270p.



looked a candidate for selecsteering committee meeting. But a sudden loss of form sabotaged its chances. A modest revival since the meeting means it becomes a Footsie constituent before the three chosen last week, which will not become members of the

exclusive club until Monday. NA's inclusion follows the Grand Metropolitan and

Guinness roll up into Diageo. Burton, holding investment presentations on its Debenhams demerger, rose 2.5p to 143.5p and Johnson Matthey firmed 2p to 526.5p as Warhurg hosted a presentation. Shield Diagnostic added

17.5p to 757.5p on talk Abbott Laboratories is about to buy a stake or even bid.

the seemingly unstoppable office equipment group, crashed 292.5p to 217.5p; Universal Salvage fell 25p to 80p and Alumasc 63.5p to 242.5p.

Eidos, the computer games maker, was ruffled by a director's disposals. Geoffrey Brown unloaded 3.4 per cent, most of his stake, at 700p, raising £4.2m. The shares fell 22.5p to 717.5p

British Aerospace slipped 20p to 1,731p, scant reward for NatWest Securities, which hoisted a £26 target price.

Asda, results tomorrow, got the NatWest chop ahead of tomorrow's interim figures. Nat West is looking for £180m, up 10 per cent. But, as if supporting the Safeway takeover theory, it says Asda "lacks scale and needs to expand its penetration of the UK grocery store market". The shares

TAKING STOCK

Ionica, the fledgling telecoms group using digital radin wave technology, is the new issue disaster of the year, Floated at 390p in July and subsequently reaching 421p the shares fell 16p to 60p. Too many seem to have got their wires crossed. Ionica admits its national roll-out is nine months behind schedule and teething troubles are limiting capacity and slowing customer sign ups.

Celebrated has nffered shareholders little to cheer about since arriving at 18p two years ago. But a reshaping may change its fortunes. It sold its 15 roadside eateries to Granada for £3m and acquired Restaurant House, running Chili's Grills and Bars. As a result, Red Hnt Concepts, a US group, has more than 30 per cent of the capital. Celebrated shares held at 10.5p.

source: **Bioomberg**

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25/RACING

Ascot lowers ceiling and raises prices

Visitors will have to pay more money this year (£55 a day

Royal Ascot retains its popularity as the Flat season's favourite fixture and in an attempt to reduce overcrowding, the course executive is to further restrict attendance. Richard Edmondson reports.

The vexed topic of attendance figures was again on the racing table yesterday. At many of Britain's racecourses, where unpalatable racing is served by similar facilities, there is a struggle to raise a quorum.

Ascot does not have that problem and yesterday the course executive revealed plans to counteract B different situation. Too many people, it seems, want to attend Royal Ascot, and, next summer, the numbers allowed on to the course will be 20 per cent fewer than last June.

The Royal meeting now welcomes 230,000 people over four ys, a mass that can be man-aged quite nicely thank you as long as the weather remains clement. When it becomes stormy, however, the picture, and the colour of your trouser bottoms, changes. The crowd reduction comes largely following dirty Thursday earlier this year, when ladies' day, the busiest day of the meeting, was met by continuous rain. The chosen dress pattern for the afternoon seemed to be mud-spatter as many who had paid good money for the experience found their new togs lasting just a few hours out of the box.

in the Royal enclosure and £42 a day in the grandstand, although there are concessions for early bookers), but there will be fewer people with whom to jostle and more refuges should the skies open once again. Double-decker marquees will be going up, with catering, television and betting facilities to take your mind off matters al fresco while raindrops are plopping from the awnings.

The message, already, appears to be book early. Advance bookings are available from 2 January and, last year, when the accommodation was greater, the grandstand enclosure for ladies' day was sold out within two weeks. Beware, there are people out there who know how to plan their lives.

The Ascot executive can also bathe in an annual attendance figure for 1997 which, at 452,100, is already ahead of the 1996 figure. And that is with Saturday's Betterware Cup meeting still to come.

There were some (ok, I mean me) who might have made a snap judgement when a chap called Douglas Erskine-Crum was appointed as Ascot's racecourse director. Dougie, as I'm sure be'll let me call him from now on, is, however, rather different from your average racing administrator. He does not treat the public as a hit of a nuisance who have turned up to ruin his private sports day.

It is easy to tell the difference. Some clerks of the course at major racing venues such as Newmarket dreamily observe £8,812.50.

you as the equivalent of bubble gum on the sole. Ascot's clerk, Nick Cheyne, and Dougie, always seem to be in a state of nervous alertness as if they are frightened that they might be doing something wrong. They care, and so do others about coming to their racecourse.

It seems inevitable then that the Berkshire track's latest initiative, the Royal Ascot Racing Club, will be a buge success. Erskine-Crum launched it yesterday with the rather modest pledge that this would be "the greatest racing club in the world". He does, though, have a glimmer of justification.

Subscribers, of which there will be a maximum of 300, will be allowed use of a club room behind the current Iron Stand for which the word luxurious is probably too understated. Canapés and drinks will be complimentary, as will Ascot raceourse admission throughout the year. Viewing at the course will be from a private stand, and an exclusive restaurant will also be available. In addition, the Club has al-

ready bought six two-year-olds at an average cost of £50,000 which will be split hetween the Messrs Stoute, Hannon and Chapple-Hyam, There will be stable visits to check the horses are still alive, dedicated phone lines to the group manager and regular reports on the hloodstock. And just in case you think one small detail may have heen omitted, the perfect late stocking filler for your loved one is available for a knockdown



One Man (left), Richard Dunwoody and Desert Orchid get on nodding terms at Greystoke stables yesterday

Photograph: John Giles/PA

The grey heir to Desert Orchid's crown comes face to face with the past master

and win a third King George VI Chase hria. on Boxing Day? Physically, at least, he

way to measuring up to Desert Orchid Richards's stables at Greystoke in Cum-

It was Desert Orchid who really was able to look the old champion in the caught the eye, though, despite his 18 eye yesterday when the two came face years. "I hope One Man will look as well to face during a visit by Desert Orchid when he is 18 and today, as always,

Can One Man go three-quarters of the to One Man's territory of Gordon Desert Orchid looked a bit of a band- wonderful having him. He looks in ful for his lass," John Hales, One Man's great order and nice and happy. One owner, said.

> trained Desert Orchid. Who wouldn't ter riding him this morning. He is comhave loved to have had a good horse like ing along nicely and looking a million that. He stayed the night bere and it was dollars for the King George.'

Man was pleased to see him too and I Richards said: "I would love to have am quite pleased with our grey horse af-

Court fancied for Irish prize

Ted Waish's Triumph Hurdle winner, Commanche Court, has been installed as the 10-1 favourite with the sponsors for the Ladbroke Hurdle at Leopardstown on 10 January. The chestnut, one-length conqueror of Circus Star at Cheltenham, is a top-priced 12-1 with William Hill and Coral.

Ladbrokes rate the chief British hope as Maurice Camacho's Alabang, a good third

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Orswell Lad (Exeter 2.50) NB: In The Blood (Exeter 1.50) .

to Major Jamie in the William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown earlier this month.

LADBROKE HURDLE (Leoperdatown, 10 Jenuary). Ladbrokes: 10-1 Commanche Court, 12-1 Alabang, Broken Rites, Graphic Equalities & Toest The Spreece, 14-1 Libpeze, 18-1 Bulladur, Misier Jamile & Sharpical, 20-1 Arctic Westiner, Carito Brigante, Crucu Star, Metantasio, Indigence, Lady Deley, Theatroworld & Tibetan, 25-1 Claras Prince, Colion Leader, Greenhus, Imputaive Dream, Juyush, Nanive-Dering, Stipo, Tidjari & Top Caes, 33-1 others.

William Hill: 12-1 Commenche Court & Walk-On Mr. 14-1 Alabarg, Broken Fittes, Graph-ic Equalities, Standow Leader, Theatreworld & Roset The Spreace, 16-1 Arctic Weather, L'Opera, Major Jamie, Tibetan & Rop Cees, 20-1 others.

20-1 others:
Corat 12-1 Communiche Court, Broken Pites,
Graphic Squalisse, Alebeng & Major Jerrie,
14-1 Shadow Leader, Roast The Spreece, 11Anno L'Opera & Top-Cees, 16-1 others.

3: 10-1 Alebeng, Comminche Court &
Annic Squalise, 12-1 Arctic Weeting, 14-1
Roast The Spreece, 16-1 Broken Pites,
Greenhue, L'Opera, Major Jernie, Tlockin &
Walt On Mo., 20-1 Balladur, Circus Star,
Palette, Shadow Leader, Sharpical & Theattramortit, 25-1 others.

Singspiel fit for stud duty

Singspiel, who fractured a leg on the eve of the Breeders' Cup. has recovered well enough to return to Britain from the USA today. The five-year-old will go straight to the Dalham Hall and of his owner, Sheikh Mohammed. He will commence stallion duties in the New Year. Michael Stoute, Singspiel's

gressed very, very well and everyone is extremely happy to let him travel back now." Pilsudski, Stoute's other globe-trotting star, leaves the trainer's rare on 11 January to

take up station duties in Japan.

trainer, said: "He has pro-

THE INDEPENT	
RACING SERV	ICES
THE COMPANY OF	ESULTS
CATTERICE 471 BANCON 472	987
DEIR AS	983
ALL STREET	ILTS

EXETER

1.20 Totally Yours 1.50 Jefferies 2.20 Mystera

HYPERION 2.50 Boots Madden 3.20 Walter's Destiny 3.50 Bold Statement

GOBNG: Good to Soft (Good in places).

Pright-hand, undutating course. Stiff test of storning. Pun-in of 250 yeards.

Course is 5m SW of Exeter on ASS. ADMISSION; Granditand & Paddock CIO; Siver Courte is 5m SW of Exeter on ASB. ADMRSSION; Grandward & Paddock St0; Siver Filing £5 (accompenied u-18t free). CAH PARK: £2 on raist; £2 members; ret true.
 LEADING TRANSERS: M Pipe — 67 winners from 255 numers £2.3%; Miles H Knight 33 from 110 (80%); P Hobbs £5 from 125 (195%); R Frost 16 from 136 (195%).
 LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy £6 wire from 15t inthis gives a success ratio of 245%; M A Ritogenald 13 from 100 (87%); P Hobbs £6 wire from 64 (88%); J F Titley 9 from 40 (225%).
 FAVOURITES: 196 wire in 505 faces (38.8%).
 BUNKERED FIRST TUBE: None.

1.20 OSPREY CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) \$2,600 added iny value £1,953

1.50 MERLIN NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m

	Til divini, some diffici
	JEFFERRES (20) Ales S Bumbergi J Oki 8 11 S
	MILLOROFT RIVIERA (20) (CD) (John Cartar) R Alber 6 11 6
	AMERICANDE (11) (BF) (B M Yer) Max S Williams B 11 2 S Michael
	CAPE HENRY (200) (The Bull Inn Reign Chit) J Tuck 10 11 2R Bellamy
OP-P	DANDE DOVE (48) (Dandelon Distribution Ltd) K Bailey 6 11 2
	EBULLIENT EQUINAME (644) (Lynn Wilson) N Henderson 6 11 2
QP-	HAN LINE (285) (J Coombe) M Coombe 9 11 2
0240/	HE FLES BY NIGHT (1009) (Mrs 25 Clark) Miss H Kright B to 2 F Toley
6722	IN THE BLOOD (11) (I L Shaw) P Hobbs 6 11 2R Durrecody
/634P-	LOGICAL STEP (285) (A E Smith) D Gandello 7 11 2 D Leahy
	FENNYMOOR PRINCE (12) (N W Leke) R Frost B 11 2
PP43-0	PROVE THE PORT (62) (Are N OutSeld) Nes N Dutfeld 4 10 0
	672-31 10-1 (LS 03-2), A U3/22- 0P-P 12-07) 09P- 09P- 09P- 09P- 09P- 09P- 09P- 09P-

10 P0662 PSINNMOOR PRINCE (12) (NW Late) R Post 8 11 2 Post 9 PROVE THE POINT (82) filter N Didaid) lies N Didaid 4 10 0 PHolley Politics of the Point (82) filter N Didaid) lies N Didaid 4 10 0 PHolley Pholley 12 decisred Prince Point (82) filter N Didaid (83) Didaid (84) Didaid (8

2.20 HOECHST EBF MARES NH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,600 added 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £3,706

1	0.55	BALLY LINA (21) (P HODISTO) P HODISTO S TO TO	
		PARTIE OF MAY Ris Class Process N Houter 7 10 10	JF77
ï	20	DASSY (200 (RF) (Robert & exos: Fibrabeth Historis) Mrs. J Pitmen 4	10 TO R Feet
i	0.4054	FOLESCLAVE (20) Blackerough RecoglAsiasa Partnershol J KPG	15 TU TU
	a	FRINGE BENEFIT ON IR J Kershauf J Collord 6 to 10	
	433	HOT 'N SAUCY (281) (The Ruby Red Partnersha) J Tuck 5 TU TV	\$#@
	05	INDIAN LEGEND (34) (FW & EP Pictor) N/15 5 Williams 4 TU TO	. Боргин мистея
	2/100-		JA
	30/0-0	KENTFORD TINA (22) (D Barel J Mulius 6 10 10	A TOOM
	3040	MAYSERIDGE LADY (21) IMss J F Destrocki P Hobbs 4 10 10	WATER TOOLS
	3	MYSTERE (Mrs. Circum Deves) K Buley 4 10 10	N White
_	G21.	OH DONNA (256) (Mrs. Johany Reed) N Henderson 5 10 10.	M A Filzye

O PINK SUGAR (21) (The Millenum Group 9 N Havise 6 10 10, 3th- SUPER SAFFFON (241) (F.B Wenter) B Smert 7 10 10 550 TARA GALE (18) (A. Willeme) J Swill 6 10 10 VALLIS VALE (Stephen Androwy) J King 7 10 10

BETTING: 7-2 Ob Doons, 4-1 Dates, 7-1 Knotterd Tine, 9-1 Fringe Benedit, Mystore, 12-1 Time Gale, 14-1 Bully Line, Foleschwa, Maybridge Lady, 16-1 others 1996: River Bay 5 10 10 B Fenton 9-4 (Mass H Knoth) 17 ran FORM GUIDE

On Dearra wort 8 point-to-point in feelend in April and is not too highly tried on her first start for Nicky Handerson, but Mysters, from the Kim Balley stable, is another untiried hurder to note in the marker, DASSY might be up against it if either of those are much above exercing but she has had 8 grounding in bumpers this season and ran well in the first of them when second or 14 to Points Again here. Her second rur, at Hereford, came only 15 days later and she might have been 8 bit fast, but the form of that race was boosted when the trind, Cool Spring won over hurdes at Warwick on Monday, Institut Lagend, is half-size to tree miners, looks to be going the right way Judged on her Taumon fifth to Valent Memory five weeks ago, while Super Settron showed 8 bit of promise in bumpers last year and is from a good family.

Selection: DASSY

2.50 EDIMBOURG HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,300

1996; Full Of Fee 9 10 in C O'Dwyer 8-1 (K Batey) 7 ran.
FORM GUIDE

This is an interesting handicap in which the novice BOOTS MADDEN looks potentially well treated. He managed only fourth of 14 to the useful Young Kenny when tried over since makes in a novice hundle at Leboster last January, but seemed to got the trip. He certainly had no trouble staying the miles and seven hundrys, about in a low-greate rovice chase, when writing at Worcester in September and he should enjoy himself with his low weight. Full Of Casta has falsen on the latest two outlings and has had a fundless time since his good 1995-66 campagn. He held every chance when topping four out in Over The Deels race at Warwick last time. Brave Highlander was hampered at the first (unsessing rider) in Mathwood Caster's race here 12 days ago, but he shaped larry we'll bend Surice Bay at Wincartion previously on he first start for almost they eyers. Thermal Warrior looked to win Sandowns Ewell Chase on men't and could continue on the upgrade despite a disappointing time last season. Selection: BOOTS MADDEN

3.20 HENRIETTA KNIGHT BIRTHDAY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,850 2m 2l Penalty Value £2,839

Fig. 11-6 The Transact of the South (12) for Southern the south as the Southern the The Set; 18-1 Dioto 1998: Cod Gurner 6 to 0 C Maude 5-1 (J Ming) 6 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE
The Brewer, tive pounds righer than when completing his hat-trick here last time, also comes back from a 43-day break and could be worth opposing. So easily did he best Wallar's Destiny and Queen Of The Sur that day, that it could be worth looking elsewhere for the writer The appropriate one given the rise-ofte, would be Hernetta Kright's buryear-old HEART, who is chucked in on some of her old Flat form but has been well. period the process over hundes so far Well handsapped as a result. Heart has hed a few training troubles, but has been given plenty of time to freshen up from her far third to Sersetion at Lucilow last time.

3.50 HARRIER HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,700 added 2m 2f Penalty Value £2,982

RACING RESULTS

FOLKESTONE 12.30: 1. AINSI SOIT IL. (D Bridgester)
7-2: 2. Ferrers 15-2: 3. August Tureith 41.7 ren. 11-4 fev Come On Penny (4th). 1.
11/4. (G McCourt, Wentage), Tote: 5230; 5190.
5340. Dual Forecast: £3700. Computer
Straight Forecast: £2582.

Streight Forecast: E25.82.

1.00: 1. BHG BEN DUN (J. R Kavanagh)
8-1; 2. Secret Bid '3-8 fax; 3. Pavlova 1017 ran. 11/4, 11 (E-James, Hungerlord). Tolac
(S.70; 63.50, 62.20. Dual Forecast: C18.0.
CSF: £20.97.
1.30: 1. MILLAMOUNT (R Thornton) 3-1
if fav; 2. Carracol 3-1 ji fax; 3. Quietaquay
7-2. 8 ran. 1/4. 13 (f. McGovern, Haywards
Heath). Tolac SSG: £100, £100, £100, £150. DF: £540.
CSF: £11.47. Tricast: £28.03.
2.00: 1. SIR DANTE (D Bridgmeter) 13-8

2.00: 1. SIR DANTE (D Bridgester) 13-8 far; 2. Who Am I 3-1; 3. Benji 33-1, 7 ran, dal, 15. (R Rows, Storrington), Total: 52:0; 1:30, 1:90, DF: 2350, CSP: 96:78 Nort Runner: Angelos Double.

ner: Angelo's Double. 2.30: 1. BE MY MOT (B Ferror) 10-1: 2. Old Decency 9-4 fav. 3. Fin Bec 7-1. 11 ran. 1%, 1%, (D Grissel, Robertstridge). Tons: 1%, 1%, (D Grissel, Robertstridge). Tons: 1%86: 5240, \$120, \$170, Dr. £2850, CSP: £3424, Tro: £7850, NR. Cheeky Charlie.

3.00: 1, PEGMARINE (J A McCerthy) 51; 2, Court Meeter 11-4; 3, Friendly Knight
15-8 tex. 7 ren. 2; 10, (Mrs A Woodrow, High
Wycombe), Tota: 55-40; 52-90, 52-40, DF:
1920, CSF: 51910,
3.30: 1, MEPRY SHOT (R Farrary) 9-2;
2, Billy Moonships 14-1; 3, Pointed Remark
7-4 tex. 11 ren. 5; 12, (Mrs J Parran, 1)-poer
Lembourn), Tota: 55-50; 52-10, 52-50, 51-70,
DF: 52-52-0, CSF: 52-738, Trio; 535-20, NF:
Cloudy Bit.

Cloudy Bill.
Jackpot: not won (pool of \$8,002.83 carned forward to Bangor today). Place 6: £58,1612.16. Place 5: £12.16. HEREFORD

1.10:1. AAL EL AAL (G Tomey) 5-1: 2. Jaquies Gien 11-4 fav. 3. Inchydonay Boy 12-1. 11 ran. 5. 6. (P Hobbs), Totar 55.30. 5200, 5160, 5140 DF, 5550 CSF; STA Tro

1.40: 1. JASON'S BOY (R. Jornson) 10-11 fav. 2. Shimbe Hills 11-2: 3. Koo's Proutise 5-2 5 fan. 27: 4 (J. Srezley). Tota: 1:50: 110. 1320 DF: 1450 CSF: 1592 2.10: 1. ASTRAL INVASION (Cary Lyons) 4-1; 2. Prince de Berry 7-2: 3. Verde Lums

9-1.8 ran. 3-4 fev Pley Games (pulled up) 11 sht-hd. (1 Wall, Tore: £400, £280, £120, £200, £557, £1020, £557; £23,34 Threast. £1657a, Trio: £1620, NR: The Secret Grey 2,401; 1, \$18ERIAN MYSTIC (C Maude) 11-4 ji tev; 2, Nornax Led 7-1; 3, Watada 8-1, 8 ran. 11-4 ji tev Pomme Secret, £174, JP Marphyl, Tote: £440; £120, £210, £170, £157, £1581, \$1020, £120, £170, £157, £1581, \$1020, £170,

Dr. 1 TORDUFF EXPRESS (C Maude) 3.10; 1 TORDUFF EXPRESS (C Maude) 100-30; 2. Lancestrian Jet 7-1; 3. An Shugh 8-1 12 ran, 11-4 few Roding Crop. 8, 1-4; (P. Necons). Total: E350, E250, E410, 2290 DF 52770 CSF-52742 7no. 54420. 230 DF 12770 CSF-12742 Min. Uwali 3.40: 1. STUPNO THRITY (A APPLIA) T-1. 2. Lord Nitrogen 100-30 fav. 3. Cestile Arrow 9-1 10 ran. 1'-6 n. (ii Dickin) Tols: 550; E150, E150, C370 DF E186 CSF-530; E16ast: 520334 The C3212 Placepot. 55893. Quadpot. 52130 Placepot. 55893. Quadpot. 52130 Place 8: \$102.32 Place 5: \$4691

MUSSELBURGH 12.45: 1. BAHER (Mas R Cark) 8-1. 2. Trienthim 11-8 fer. 3. Famedity 5-1 7 ran. 7-3. (S Cark, Sution-on-the-forest) Tota: 570, 0450, 0440, DF 9500 CSF 11778 Win-

1.20; 1. ROYAL YORK (P Carberryl 2-1, 2. Cottstown Boy 20-1, 3. Forever Grey 66-1 9 ran. 4-6 tay Sharmoogh (fel) 25, 34. (G Rithards, Greystoke) Tote: £2.60; £1.50, £2.50, £2.60 DF: £21.50 CSF £24.69. Tho.

250, 1280 DF: £2130 CSF £2468, Tho. 188001
1.50: 1. LITTLE DUKE (Mr M Brachume)
4.1: 2. Pharmon Haze 10-1; 3. Victor Les210 To 1. 14 ran. 5-4 ray Stasher Jack (4th)
15 3th (Mrs S Brachuma, Cuper) Rote £350, 1240 12340 £300 DF: £120 CSF £4383 1no. £14410
2.20: 1. MONTRAVE IS Taylor 5-1. 2. Pertrian 8-1. 3. Ballyline 9-4 fav 5 ran. hd, "h.
U Golde Kimamocki Tobe: £520, £180, £190 DF: £120 CSF £2898
2.50: 1. MASTER BAVARD (Mr M Brachum) 7-4 fav. 2. Uk Hyglene 14-1; 3. Teepsylvaleth 8-1 8 ran. 20. 11% (P Moment, Rosewel) Tobe: £310, £160, £310, £150 DF: £4500, CSF £213 Treash £50488
3.20: 1. NIGEL'S LAD (M Fosser) 10-11 3.20: 1. NIGEL'S LAD (M Foster) 10-11 fav. 2. Major Hartis 7-2: 3. Unfathen 9-4. a ran. 8 30 (P Hesiam Middlefram) Tota: 1780. DF 52:40. CSF: \$405. Non Rurmer: Starts Your Man.

Piace 8 139666 Place 5 121520

BANGOR

HYPERION 12.40 Brumon 1.10 Deano's Beano 1.40 Moun-

tain Path 2,10 Albert The Lion 2,40 Slideofhill 3.10 Jymjam Johnny 3.40 Jalon GDING: Chases - Soft; Hurdes - Good (Good to Soft in places).

■ Left-hand, uncluding course; run-in 325yds. ■ Course 4 mass SE of Wissham near job of ASS and B5069. Bus from Wredern relistation, ADMISSION: Paddock i Course E4 (under-16s free all enclosures), CAR PARK: Free, COURSE EA (UNIGA-TISE TISE IS ENCORAISED, CAM FRANK FINE.

LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveloy 17-82 (207%), M Hammond 10-104 (95%), L Lungo 9-86 (95%), Mrs S Smith 9-68 (165%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 23-80 (285%), R Garriny 14-82 (17.1%), A S Smith 13-59 (22%), T Reed 10-75 (13.3%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None

12.40 RED COAT CONDITIONALS HANDI-CAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,500 2m 1f 108/ EDEN AL HARRES (SIG) (CIT) D McCam 6 11 10.... G Hogsie DIS-03 DONTDRESSFORDINGER (9) (D) R Hodges 7 11 9......

3 420-03 BEFUNDON (19) M Matinesis, 6 ft 8 Toescombe
3 420-03 BEFUNDON (19) M Matinesis, 6 ft 8 Photology 7
4 50-234 EVEZIO RUFO (13) (0) N Letimoden 5 11 5 J Goldstein (5) V
5 CP-852 CARROLLS ROCK (14) C Name 6 to 10
6 FP-855 MILLING BROOK (14) C Name 6 to 10
7 900-41 ERCOLIN (9) (0) Mee A Statel 7 10 6 (7 mg) ... X Alzpuru V
8 PSP-P ALTHREY ARSTOCHAT (40) F Loyd 7 10 0 C Ree (3)
- 6 declared - Matinum weeght 70st The inadicep weight Albrey Aristocrat Set 28b.
BETTING: 9-4 Death merghraffener, 7-2 Brusson, 4-1 Carrolls Rock, 9-2
Ericolis, 13-2 Evezio Rufo, 7-1 Milling Brook, 10-1 Ebon Al Habseb, 25-1
Althrey Aristocrat

1.10 ASTBURY WREN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,000 added 3m

1.40 CLWYD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 205-31 BURNT BEP (USA) (18) (D) G M Moore 7 Ti 5 ... J Categhan P.PPO CAFTAM KY CAPTAM (26) R Brotherion 9 Ti 2 ... L Harvey CUPUS - HIGH HARDED (26) T Calcinel 8 Ti 2 .Michael Seroman (3) 50 LISAYUNE OATS (613) A Barrow 7 Ti 2 ... Jair O NoPhail (7)

6 36/F-5 WHEN WARRLER (14) Mr. P Robeson 7 10 11 ... B Powell
7 4200 PRINCELY AFFAIR (40) J M Brotley 4 10 7 ... - P Johnson
7 declared SETTING: 8-11 Burnt Imp. 2-1 Mountain Path, 12-1 Wren Werbler, 20-1
High Mended, Princely Affair, 25-1 Captain My Captain, 33-1 Lisahane
Cats

2.10 MAESFEN NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2m 1f

2.40 HALEWOOD LAMBRINI HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 26,000 added 4m 1f

CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 acided 4m 1f

PO4T SLZEOFRIL (23) J ONet 8 if th _____ A P McCoy

42-11 TOP JAVALM (RIZ) (23) (C) N Hewise 10 Ti 12 ____ R Greene

RSR0 GLENRINN PRINCESS (56) P Bowen 9 Ti 8 ____ W Marston

4 004-2 KEANO (31) (C) D Ncholson 8 Ti 5 _____ R Johnson

5 221-43 LAY IT OFF (16) J G ONel 8 to Ti 5 _____ R Johnson

6 004-5 MISTER BLAKE (22) (C) R Lee 7 To 5 _____ R Thornton

7 042-40 BHAMARPHIL (16) R Alnor Ti 10 1 ____ Miss 5 Berraciough

8 280-33 DEBE MARSHALL (16) J Wede 9 To 0 _____ Mir D McPhell (7)

8 PP-655 L'UOMO PIU (54) A Berrow 18 TO 0 _____ Mir D McPhell (7)

Minimum weight: 10st. Tore humiflage weight: L'Unino Piu Set 4b.

BETTRICE 11-4 Stateothil, 3-1 Top Javalin, 5-1 Lay 12 Off, 6-1 Keano, 7-1

Mister Blain, 10-1 Sharterphil, 72-1 Doise Marstell, 14-1 others

3.10 BODFARI STUD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

- 15 declared -SETTING: 5-4 Hilberdon, 5-2 Basecy, 7-1 Buckeloon, 8-1 Jelon, 12-1 Day teven Ludy, 18-1 Brymer Lees, Telos The Catch, 20-1 others

CATTERICK

1.00 Clairabell 1.30 Once More For Luck 2.00 Judicial Field 2.30 DISTANT STORM (nap) 3.00 Shining Edge 3.30 Lumback Lady

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).

Left-hand course, undustring and sharp, Run-in 240yds.

Course is NW of lown on A6138. Deringson rail station 14 miles - bus service to course, ADMISSION; Cub Pri; Tattersalls 17; Course C250 (under 16; free into all enclosures). CAR PARK: Reserved area L2.30 (Linder to the riso all encourses). CAR PARIX: Reserved area 12. remainder the ...

LEADING TRAINERS: Mins M Reveloy 17-82 (207%), M Hammond 10-104 (85%), L Lungo 9-48 (88%), Mins S Smith 9-68 (136%), C LeADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 23-80 (285%), R Garritty 14-82 (171%), A S Smith 18-89 (22%), T Reed 10-75 (133%).

FAVOURITES: 108-327 (33%), ELINICERED PREST TEME: Nova.

1.00 HELISTER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,250 added 3m 1f 110yds

- 6 declared -BETTING: 5-4 Prime Example, 5-2 Feels Like Gold, 7-2 Cinirabell, 10-1 Metaldi, 20-1 Desparate Days, Gale Force, Sul Force, 25-1 Framenty

1.30 RAFFYARD HOUSE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m 3f

2.00 RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) 53,500 added 2m 3f

2.30 RACE CLUB AMATEURS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) \$2,700 2m 3f

3.00 GARTH NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,250 added 2m

- 4 declared -BETTING: 1-2 Shining Edge, 7-4 Minuter Glory, 25-1 Cadeauxt Pre 3.30 HUTTON WANDESLEY NOVICE HAND-ICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,700 2m 1 O-624 LIMBACK LADY (16) 6 Machingari 7 71 10 _____ G Lau
2 280 SANDABAR (16) J Howard Johnson 4 11 5 ____ A S SMIP
3 0603-2 PERPETUAL LIGHT (F11) J J Culm 4 11 6 _____ L Wyer
4 40 MOST WANTED (8) (D) W McKeown 4 11 3.C McCarmack (5)
5 2030-1 Liber STREET BLIES (F74) T Keddy 8 11 1 ____ S Ryen (5)
6 303721 GALLDPING GIRS (9) (D) 8 Liberaty 11 10 _Guy Lands (3)
7 PQS-0 PUBLIC WAY (25) N Chambarlin 7 10 5 ____ R Gentley
9 4-245 LORD OF THE RINGS (8) F Murphy 5 10 5 ____ P Carberry
10 RSP-43 POINT DUTY (8) F Murphy 7 100 _____ R Supple
-10 declared --

Minimum weight: 10st. True handisep weight: Point Duty Set Bib. BETTRIC: 5-2 Gelioping Gunts, 9-2 Perpetual Light, 8-1 Lumback Lad 7-1 Point Duty, 8-1 Lord of The Ringe, 18-1 Most Wested, 13-1 others

Sheffield to be at centre of plan for regional excellence

The proposals for a new **United Kingdom** Institute for Sport signal a change to a more coherent sporting strategy. Mike Rowbottom reports.

The revolution is underway for British sport. Yesterday's announcement that the United Kingdom Institute for Sport once referred to as the Academy of Sport - would be housed in Sheffield marked an important stage in the overhauling of the whole sporting system.

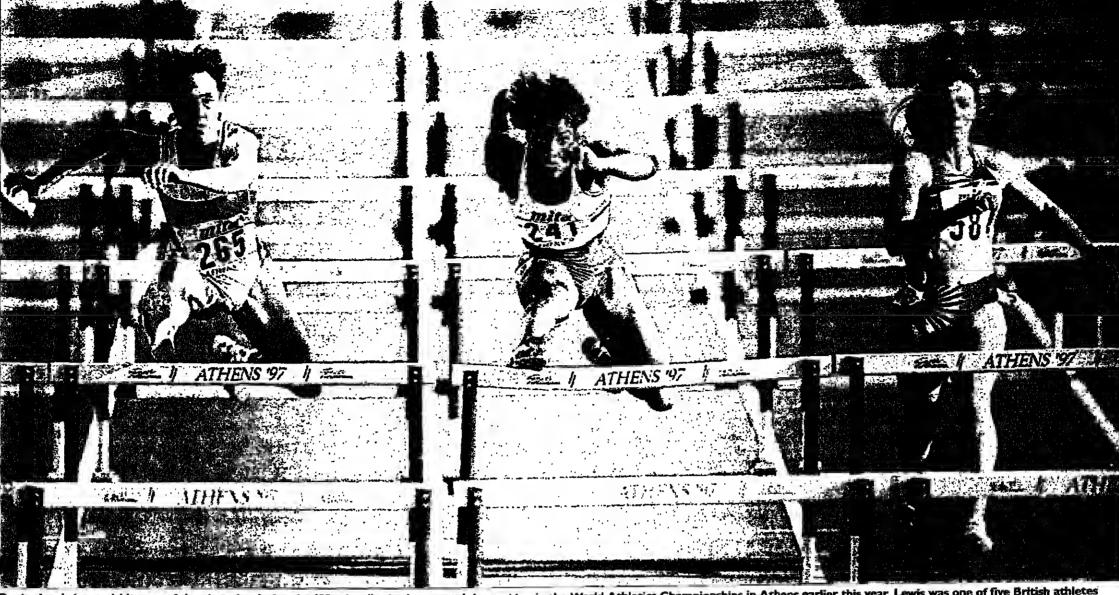
Until now, British sport has mirrored the British constitution in that it has been built up piecemeal over the years. The new proposals seek to establish ao American-style constitution - a coherent system conceived as a whole. The idea of an academy was vigorously promoted a couple of years ago by the then Sports Minister, Jain Sproat, who arrived back from a tour of Australia's Institute of Sport in Canberra with a missionary

The worry at the time for many athletes was that this would mean one huge facility which everybody would he obliged to travel to from all parts of the country.

There has been considerable vacillation over what would be the ideal model to pursue, to the point where some of the contenders who were knocked out in the early rounds of bidding seriously, that they should be allowed back into the process because the criteria had altered so

The fears within the British sporting community were one each in Wales and Northcalmed by the decision taken by ern Ireland - all of which will Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sports Secretary, to consult widely with sports governing bodies over the prothe Labour government came to the Sports Minister, Tony was required was a greater ero- cilities outside Sheffield. phasis on regional centres connecting to a central huh.

Accordingly, there will be parts are within a network she has been obliged to make



have suggested, more than half Denise Lewis (centre) hits one of the obstacles during the 100m hurdles in the women's heptathlon in the World Athletics Championships in Athens earlier this year. Lewis was one of five British athletes who won silver medals, but the team failed to win a single gold. Supporters of the new academy hope that it will help convert British potential into world and Olympic titles

eight regional centres in England, several in Scotland and have to be accredited by the national centre.

Two sports - cricket and rugby league - have said they ject - which Smith described as want to develop their own ex-"fundamentally flawed" - once clusive facilities. Those proiects are still in the development power. The message Smith and stage. Other sports such as rowing and track cycling will Banks, received was that what base themselves at multi-use fa-

> But the key element to the whole scheme is that all the the training ground because

which will be able to co-ordinate its support. British competitors are about to start surfing the net towards Sydney.

Essentially, all the money and all the talk is directed at making the life of our sportsmen and women easier.

Last week, the international high hurdler Jacqui Agyepong talked excitedly of her involvement in the new athletics programme which has been set up at Bath University. In recent years she has spent as much time on the M6 as she has on

physiotherapist and her dictor.

higher, stronger.

separate trips to her coach, her able to remain in training at their local clubs while accessing ex-

perrise via their regional centre. The essence of a sporting in-The furthest any athlete will stitute is that it should provide a one-stop shop for athletes have to travel for treatment, such as Agyepong, allowing training facilities or support them to channel all that wastlacilities at the Sheffield site will ed energy into becoming faster. be three miles.

There will be widespread re-Thus competitors will be lief that the whole process is fi-

THE SPORTS TO BE BASED AT SHEFFIELD

Athletics Swimming Netball Road cycling Squash Volleyball Judo Tnathlon

nally moving, at a time when many sports are learning how much money they are to receive from a separate National Lottery-funded scheme to benefit sport, the World Class Perfor-

The Sheffield consortium includes the city's two universities, two hospital trusts and the city council.

success, according to Smith, were that it offered a cohesive site with good transport and infrastructure, and that it had huilt on existing public investment in sports facilities in the city.

"We are absolutely delighted." a Sheffield City Council spokesman said, "We have always known that Sheffield had the strongest case for this because of the state-of-the-art sports facilities we already have.

We are right in the middle of the country with great communications. And this is going to be a major plank in our re-Among the reasons for its generation plans for the city."

The British Olympic Association remained optimistic of playing a role within the overall framework of the Institute. even though it supported the rival Upper Heyford hid.

Dick Palmer, executive vicepresident, said the BOA hoped to be involved in running the centre of excellence. "Naturally we are disappointed that the bid was rejected but there were three good hids and I suspect the fine facilities already in place in Sheffield counted in

their favour." he said. "I hope we will still have an input in to the academy. We have not heard anything about the management yet and we hope to be involved in that. We have anticipated we might be cherry-picked for the task hut it is loo early to speculate."

Broughton aims to make Navy fly

The Royal Navy are flying the flag for British sailing in the Southern Cross regatta. Stufft Alexander reports from a baking hot Sydney on their chances of covering the White Ensign in

The Royal Navy goes into hattle here today led by a helicopter pilot, a nuclear submariner, er his 29th. and a land-based recruit training officer.

They join an enthusiastic, if still depleted. Southern Cross regatta for a nine-race series which ends with the 630-mile Sydney to Hobart race, starting on Boxing Day.

As today is also forecast to be the hottest of the summer so far, basking in 30-plus degree temperatures may seem a good way to spend a British winter. However, the work-rate over an eight-day training period has been intense, with the helicopter pilot and skipper, Mickey Broughton, cramming boat Chessie Racing, and Lawrie preparation, handling manoeuvres and fitness training into long days of toil.

Having the submariner and navigator, Paul Methyen, and the square basher and principal helmsman, Clive Woodman, aboard has left Broughton confident that he has assembled one of the best all-round RN crews. crews are now extremely tired.

The 14-strong crew will be racing the 43ft Quest - a modern, Nelson/Marek-designed yacht, which was sailed by Australia's 1996 Canada Cup team in Hawaii. Quest was also sec- anything, with the exception of ond in this year's Hamilton Is- a computer which gave up the land Race Week.

Broughton, the navigator on the joint services' British Defender in the 1989 Whithread Round the World Race and a regular on Admiral's Cup vachts, sees this as more than a flag-waving exercise for Britain.

It is an important step forward in the Navy's return to top level competition. They will have to be at their

best if they are to take any top level scalps, one of which is being championed by another British arrival. Andy Beadsworth has been called in by Svd Fischer, the captain of the Australia team, to helm the 50ft Ragamuffin. Beadsworth, who raced Olympics, will be doing his first Sydney to Hobart race - Fisch-

Still a few days from the entry to Sydney Harbour are the nine yachts in the Whitbread Race. Brunet Sunergy and the overall leader Innovation Kvaerner appear to he profiting from taking the hig dive south to look for fresh westerlies. Paul Cayard in EF Language was estimated to have joined the teaders, having swapped his northerly option for

a more southerly attack. The fleer remains hunched over about 20 miles with any one of Paul Standhridge in Toshiha, George Collins in Smith in Britain's Silk Cut vying for the lead.

The boats have faced constant headwinds since the start on Saturday, which has means frequent changes of tack and the necessary movement of gear and crew below deck that goes with it. The result is that the

Grant Dalton reported from Merit Cup that the hoat had been under tremendous strain. "There is no doubt these boats are tough. We haven't broken ghost when we fell off a wave." WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE WHITEREAD ROUND THE WORLD PACE (third leg, 2,250 miles, framantile to Sydney): 1 Toshiba (US) P Standandge 1,440 miles to finali: 2 Swedsh Mazid, (Swe) G Krantz 4 miles behint; 3 S& Cun (GB) L Smith 6; 4 EF Language (Swe) P Cayard 112; 5 Meni Cup (Monaco) G Daino 122; 5 Chessie Racing (US) G Collins 126; 7 Brunel Sunergy (Neth) R Henier 24; 8 EF Education (Swe) C Guidou 255; 9 Innovation Kveemer (Nor) K Frostad 268.

Hollioake's men can shape the future Edwards' heroic

If England win the Champions Cup on Friday, then it is likely that the principle of separate one-day and Test squads will be adopted. Derek Pringle reports from Sharjah on a bold experiment that looks like succeeding.

England's seamless progress to in the Soling class at the Atlanta: The final of the Akai-Singer Champions Cup here, has been a triumph of strategy over convenience. By tailoring their side to the demands and parameters of this one-day competition, Adam Hollioake's team have perhaps set a precedent that even the financially cautious England and Wales Cricket Board will find difficult to ignore. Win or lose on Friday, the days of single party tours must surely be numbered.

But while the ECB ore-varicate upon the matter, the view from the England dressingroom - particularly with the World Cup at stake in just uoder 18 months time - is that

there is simply no other way. "The Board should see it as an investment." reckoned Hollioake, when asked if the ECB might hlanche at the the cost of such a venture. The current England one-day captain in residence adding: "If they are perhaps add four or five playnot going to keep this squad to-

West Indies 229-6

West Indies win by 41 runs

England face a high-profile

practice run for their Caribbean

tour when they play the West In-

Trophy final on Friday follow-

ing vesterday's self-destruction

India 188



Getting into the swing: England's Alistair Brown enjoys a day off on the golf course yesterday Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

gether for the one-day series in the West Indies, they may as well call the whole thing off right now. There is no point in going off half-cock. At the end of the day if you are not prepared to pay, you can't expect results."

Sachin Tendulkar and Mo-

hammed Azharuddin ran them-

selves out as India, trying to

overhaul the West Indian Iotal

of 229 for 6 inside 45 overs - to

qualify for the final on run-rate

-slid wretchedly to 188 all out.

was based on an unheaten 105

some fine bowling by their spin-

ners Rawl Lewis, Carl Hooper

The West Indies' triumph

It is a philosophy that is echoed, though somewhat less forcefully, by the England coach, David Lloyd. "I hope we can take the nucleus of this squad here out to the one-day series in the West Indies, and

dies in Sharjah's Champions from Stuart Williams and then

against the West Indies by India. and Shivnarine Chanderpaul,

No doubt Lloyd was thinking about the likes of Michael Atherton and Darren Gough, who were both excused Sharjah, as well as one or two others such as Mark Ramprakash and Andy Caddick.

Lloyd, who stressed that it was "his thinking and not a decision," also hopes to assemble a one-day squad of 22 players for next summer when England play a triangular series against South Africa and Sri Lanka.

"It's no, mean feat to get to the final on the back of a few nets

miliation in Pakistan, Courtney

Walsh's side will be determined

to heat England, so that they can

return home with at least some

pride restored. England beat

West Indies by four wickets on

Saturday, but that will not count

37 and Chanderpaul 3 for 18,

both cashing in on the Indians'

increasingly desperate attempts

Hooper finished with 4 for

for much in the final.

in Manchester," said Lloyd, implying that his and the England selectors' demands in preparing this squad had not been excessive.

Mind you, the logistics, at least for getting a squad ready for the West Indies, are not straightforward. Indeed, England's attempts to prepare one-day specialists for the previous World Cup, by taking them to South Africa towards the end of the Test series there, caused confusion.

Despite the right intentions. England followed a 6-1 loss in the one-day series to South Africa. with a swift exit from the World Cup, where they failed to beat a single Test-playing nation. With "orevious" like that, the ECB is unlikely leap in again, without considering the consequences. Yet if England win the final against West Indies, few will be able to deny the overwhelming success of this well-conceived experiment.

With one-day cricket looking the most likely way to spread and popularise the game round the world. England need to be at the forefront, and that means having largely separate squads for Test and one-day cricket.

Trying to stay ahead of the game is foreing England cricket to become more labour intensive, which in turn means extra expense, if England are to challenge for the World Cup in 18 months' time or the Ashes next winter, the ECB will have to start halancing finances with priorities. A good showing by England on Friday, may be just the spur, West Indies finally profit from India's reckless run chase

After their Test series hu- to get to their target. The legspinner Lewis had earlier

played a vital role, removing Navjot Sidhu and then providing the accurate throws to run out Tendulkar and Azharuddin Saurav Ganguly made 70, but Rahul Dravid appeared at the fall of the first wicket. Sidhu. and it was not until the 29th over that Tendulkar came in at No 4. 50 not out off 55 balls. CHAMPIONS TROPHY (Sharjah): West Indies 229 for 6 IS C Williams 105no). India 186 (S C Ganguly 70; C L Hooper 4-37).

said: "They respected the good

feat of endurance

reports from Pune England 324-3 ireland 116 England win by 208 runs

Huntingdon's Charlotte Edwards gave herself an 18th birthday present a day early yesterday, scoring 173 not oul against treland in Pune's palm-

fringed Nehru Stadium. way through 50 overs, striking 19 fours off 155 balls to produce an innings stunning in its range and also admirable in its character, as England gained an overwhelming win by 208 runs in this women's World Cup

match. Edwards passed the century mark in the 32nd over without offering one chance. Tiring in stifling heat, she was then dropped three times - on 110. 131, and again when she had World Cup record score of 143, set in 1988 by Australia's Lindsay Reeler. Edwards made that mark in the 44th over - that she carried on to thrash 30 more runs, dehydrated and with cramps in her feet and ankles, speaks of a heart as big as her covered drives are sweet.

Edwards' effort was the centrepiece of another crushing England display: 324 for 3 was their third score over 300 in three matches - and this against an Irish side better by some margin then their previous victims, Denmark and Pakistan. Indeed, should Ireland heat Pakistan tomorrow in Dehli, they would join England in the quarter-finals - but England overwhelmed them all the same. At the close, Edwards was dashingly assisted by the wicketkeeper. Jane Cassar, striking

The Irish coach, John Wills,

hall, and the had ball went for four. It was an exhibition of how to play proper cricket, not least when Jane Brittin walked. It was

it should all be about." To their credit, rather than stonewalling through 50 overs, Ireland set themselves a target between 180 and 200 - hut they did not get near it. England bowled them out for 116 in the 42nd over to win by 208 runs; Winning her ninth cap for a fierce spell of 4 for 6 in 4.1 England. Edwards battled her overs from the bighearted Yorkovers from the bighearted Yorkshire seamer Melissa Reynam put paid to the innings - her cru-

cial scalp was that of Caitriona

Beggs, who had lasted 40 grit-

only the merest of snicks, but

she was honest, and that's what

ty overs for her 49. That England's bowling has found some hite will be as heartening as Edwards' high score. Less heartening was the news from Bombay - that her score was not, after all, the new world record. The Australian opener, Belinda Clark, had hit an astonishing 229 not out passed the previous women's against Denmark, and Australia's total of 412 for 3 passed England's four-day old World; Cup record of 376 for 2 com fortably. Tomorrow's game between these two in Nagpur

England won loss
ENGLAND WOMEN'S XI
C Edwards not out
J Brittin c Dawson b O'Nett
Contain C Depresor o O Need
B Daniels c Pratt b Greatey
a Mercade at Dawson h Rinne
J Cassar not out
Evine /h/ Bar and
Extras (b6, b12 w10 nb3)
MAIN (101, 3' 26 GAGLE)
Fall: 1-72, 2-85, 3-193.
City and a contract
Did not bet: S Rediem, C Taylor, K Smith
L MacLeod, K Leng, M Reynard
Granding Market and the Control of the Control
Bowling: McDonald 10-1-41-0; Preff #0-
U. ODBOCK SHIPTON COMPANY OF 1 94 C CARR
8-0-51-1; Biggs 7-0-49-1; Shillington 8-0-
V 1 - 250
IDE And Heavy
IRELAND WOMEN'S XI
N Sours b Radiem
N Squire b Rediem

Fall: 1-2 2-2 3-30, 4-47, 5-50, 6-94, 7-134, 8-113, 9-15

BOXING

Hamed signs £26m deal with Warren

Naseem Hamed's earning power. Britain's highest-paid sportsman, can bank around £26m from a new deal struck with promoter Frank Warren.

The World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion has signed for another 10 fights under the Warreo hanner, with a new contract which starts in September.

more than WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis last year and his endorsements in the Middle East are uobelievable." Hamed's name appears there on orange juice, milk cartons and postage stamps among other items

It is no wonder Warren does not flinch when he reveals that his Madison Square Garden venture, in which Hamed defends his WBO title against the New Yorker Kevin Kelley on Friday, is costing \$10m (around £6.7m) to set up.

Hamed's agenda for 1998 are the WBO super-bantamweight champion Junior Jones - Warren has a contract for that fight to take place in London during Wimbledon fortnight - and the International Boxing Federation super-featherweight champion Arturo Gatti, from Montreal. A Gatti fight would be at superfeatherweight (9st 4lb), a division higher for Hamed.

Breaking with traditional pre-fight preparation, Hamed went to play pool until 2am on Sunday. And he says he stays up until the early hours watching videos of his heros like Muhammad Ali. With 28 successive wins, 26 inside schedule, Hamed does not see the need

done a bit of shopping in New York, played a bit of pool and now I'll snank the Yank " said Hamed.

"I'm here to knock someone out - Kelley will be the one - spiration. and make Britain and the Arab

world proud, I guarantee it. "I predict the round in which I'll win, hut it doesn't put pressure on me. I won't go out all tensed up. I'll beat someone up. ing legend."

There seems no limit to Pain must come with it, and Kelley will feel some. He'll take some serious shots.

"I've oot come to New York to dance around and win on points. I've something to prove to the Americans who say I'm a flash in the pan. I'm looking for a full, clean collision - me hitting him, and him hitting the canvas."

Kelley has not been seen in Warren said: "He earned his home city since Hamed arrived in a personal party which will swell to nearly 30 when his family arrive in force before his date at the Garden.

The former World Boxing Council champion may be more than a shade put out by the fact that Hamed is making all the pre-fight noise on his own patch. Kelley said: "You need to give him a beating. He needs it. The first round I'm going straight for his mouth. I've heen saving everything up for

"I think they are jumping the . Big American names on gun with this guy. They are putting too much interest in a guy no one knows and who is not from this city and is not even from this country.

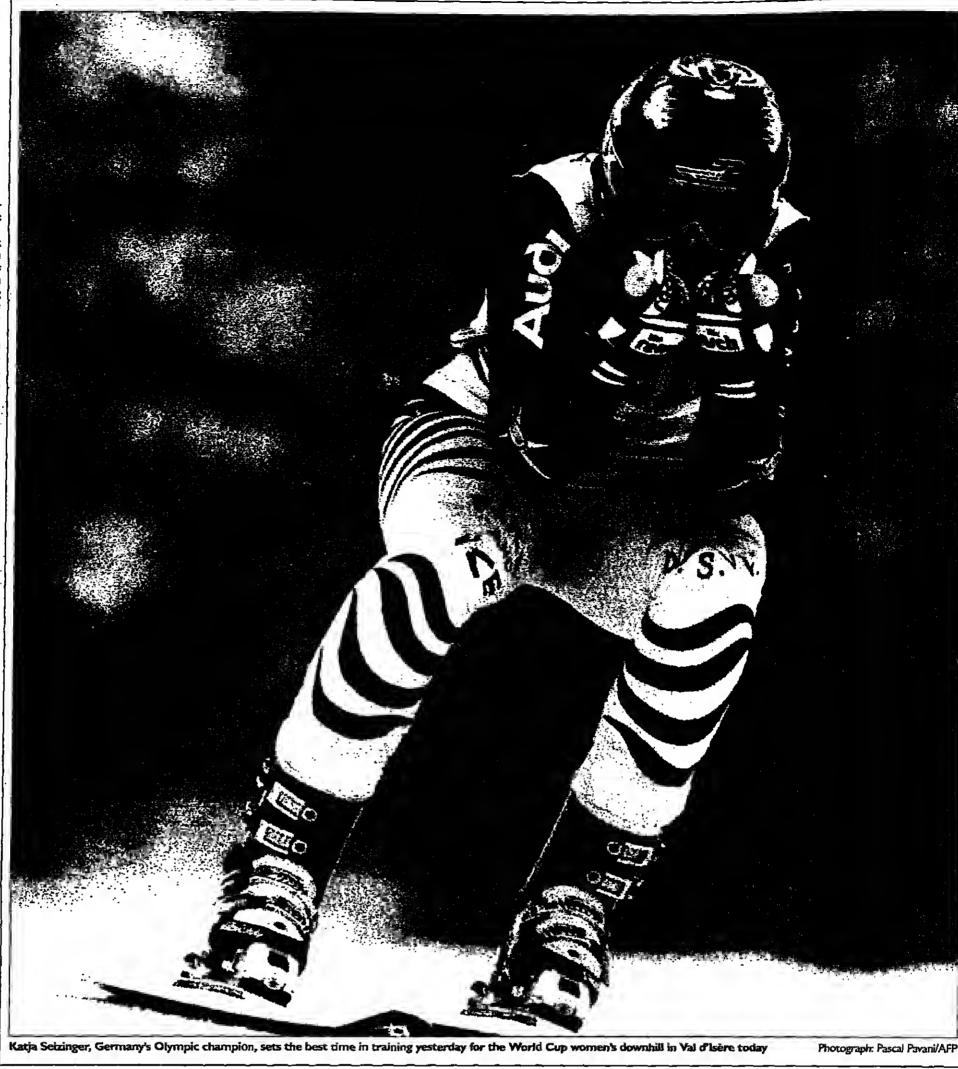
"When I fight, I fight with everything that's in me. I'm going to hit him with everything that I've ever been hit with. When the hell rings he's going to see me and know that I'm out to hurt him."

Hamed claimed that Kelley "has realised it will be his last fight... He will just turn up and give it what he's got. He's been world champion and been there before. He's no novice."

Hamed is hoping that Muhammad Ali will come to watch the fight and insists his comments were taken out of context when he was reported "I'm enjoying myself. I've as saying he would go down in history as a better fighter than "The Greatest".

> thing that he's there." Hamed said. "The guy's my idol, my in-

> "If they ask me who is best between us, I must give my opinion. All I said was I can box five different ways. I wasn't saying I was better than him. He's a liv-



RUGBY UNION

heroic

durance

French begin a revolution prior to Five Nations challenge Sedloski arrives

cattle in selecting his sides for England's recent four-match international series may not have earned him the victory he craved, but it seems to have set side of the Channel. Yesterday, own bout of "off with their heads radicalism by ditching some of their most experienced

and respected Test performers. Philippe Saint-André, who full-back respectively.

Clive Woodward's willingness to led the Tricolores to a record desacrifice an entire herd of sacred feat against the Springboks in Paris last month, was omitted from a training squad due to meet next week to begin early preparations for the Five Nations' Championship. So 100 was a few hares running on the far Thierry Lacroix, despite his virtuoso performance for Harlequins against Wasps at the weekend, and, astonishingly. Abdel Benazzi and Jean-Luc Sadourny, acknowledged worldclass acts at loose forward and

coaching sidekick. Pierre Villepreux, wielded their collective axe in other directions, 100. Didier Casadei, the outstanding Brive loose-head prop. and his versatile clubmate, David Venditti, were also ignored, as were such luminaries as Olivier Merle and Laurent Cabannes. "We are not excluding anyone from future Test sides." insisted Villepreux. "We simply want to hring as many players as possible into our planning." A logi-

Jean Claude-Skrela and his cal move, perhaps, but a bold

one all the same. Bath, hugely embarrassed at their 50-point mauling by Saracens at the weekend, have been rather less imaginative in naming their side for this Saturday's do-or-die Heineken Cun semifinal with Pau at the Recreation Ground. Their four changes are wholly predictable: Mark Regan for Andy Long at hooker. Richard Webster for Eric Peters on the blind-side flank. Mike

wing for Adedayo Adehayo. which will allow Matt Perry to

switch back to outside centre. There may, however, be a surprise twist on the personnel front. Adebayo, who strained his back in training before the Saracens match, remains a slight doubt and Bath have put Simon Geoghegan, their perpetually injured trish wing, on standby. Geoghegan has played fewer than 20 matches since joining Can for Richard Butland at the West Countrymen three

chronic toe problems that have required nine separate bouts of surgery.

Pau have made one change : from the side who started against Leicester in last month's quarter-final, replacing the lock Thierry Meotieres with Alain

PAU (v Bath, Seturday); N Brusque; P Bernst-Salles, Il Dentiacq, F Lebox, Y Mantin; D Aucagne, F Torosslan; P Tinep-Capoteville, J Rey (capt); J-M Gonzalez, A Legouande, T Cleda, S Kenti, N Bacque, F Rolles.

Rugby Union

of title hopefuls.

SPORTING DIGEST

American football A new knee injury suffered by Jerry Rice, the San Francisco 49ers wide re-caiver, and a dislocated shoulder for Terrell Davis, the Denver Broncos of-fence player, in the Monday game, will dent both cube hopes of reaching Su-res Ravel YCOII per Bowl XXXII. NFL: San Francisco 34 Denver 17.

The Florida Marins have traded their talented pitcher Kevin Brown to the San Diego Patires for three minor leaguers, the first baseman Derrek Lae and the placings Refael Medina and Steve Levin.

Baskethall NBA: Bostor 100 Philadelpha 83; Toronto 101 Indiana-108; Washington 88 Utah 86; Chicago 71 Photonix 104; Portland 90 Atlanta



WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS FORECAST

FA Carting Premiership

1 Aston Villa Plautempton

2 Blackhain Villat Ham

3 Derby v Crystal Palace

4 Leads v Bolton

Nationwale Frothall League First Division

17 Swindon v Bernengham 18 Tranmere v Oxford Utd Playing Sunday: Queens Park Rangers v Bradford City

Second Division 20 Bournemouth v Waglord 23 Luton v Bristol RoversX 24 Milwell v Wycombs 26 Wigan v Stentlord1 Football

Football

Partick Tristle have been given a twomonth stay of execution by their
creditors. The Glasgow club, bottom
of the Scottish First Division, have
debts in excess of 22m and are currenity losing 240,000 a month.

FIFA CONFEDERATIONS' CUP Group A
(Rilyeth, S Arabal): Sauch Araba 1:145hammed Al-Niziam 45: Australia 0

MONDAY'S LATE RESILTS: FA Caring Premierahip; Manchespre: 15c: 1-Astralia 0

MONDAY'S LATE RESILTS: FA Caring Premierahip; Manchespre: 15c: 1-Astralia 0

Cambridge Und 1 Nyman League Premier Division:
Purfeet 2 Harrow Scrough 2 Unitaria
League Partier Division Cup second round;
Ashion 1 Great Purvood 1 North West Counties League Cup second round: Catherie 0

Vandral GM 2 Positios League First Division:

32 Levion Chent v Hzb _

34 Peterborough v Laccia

35 Swansea v Cambridge X

Playing Friday: Counterer v Chester Don-caster v Rotherham Scarporough v Barner

Nuclearified O Middle-brough 1, Sunderland 2 Namineser Cit. 1 Second Division: Lincoln 2 Brachtod City 3, Shetheld Utg 1 Romer Institute 2 Third Division: Newcastle 2 Hull City 0, Avon Insurance Combination First Division: Chelsea 2 Wintbisdon 2. The Times FA Youth City Second Found 1 Second Times FA Youth City Second Town 4 Great Walsamg Rovers 0 Wiking 1 Gängtam 2 First Contrabustion City (Rhyadh, S Anabla) Group 8: Cooch Republic 1 (Secy 83) Hugany 2 (Ohrera 25 Jalents 87) Harral Anaberreses 1 (Sudal 1) South Africa 0 Portionaces Leaguer 2 Southal 2 South Africa 0 Portionaces Leaguer 2 Southal 2 South Africa 0

Annika Screnstam, of Sweden, was yesterday named player of the year by the United States LPGA. The American Kame Viebb won the award far leading scorer.

Ice hockey
Cardiff Devils have signed the Swede
Peter Ekroth, with the detendemen set
to make his debut in the Express Cup
tie at home to Nottingham Panthers

First Division 42 Fallerk v Airdrie 43 Morton v String . . .

46 St Mirren v Duridee

Exeler Cetic, Livingston

Second Division Second Division
47 Brechs: v Sterhousemus X
48 Inveness CT v Fortis: 1
48 Livingsion v Clyde
48 Inveness CT v Fortis: 1
48 Livingsion v Clyde
48 Inveness The Startest v Clydebark. Third
50 Jahry Essi Fits. Startest v Clydebark. Third
64 Bristone Abtor Roves v Arborat, Albay Ross
62 County, Consenteam v Berwor, Dumbarron
v East Starting Monitions v Queens Pain
64 Bristone Monitions v Queens Pain
64 Bristone Monitions V Bristone
65 Starting Monitions v Queens Pain
65 Bristone Monition Medicashed v Cardill
65 Bristone Monitions Starting Monitions
65 Bristone Monition Medicashed v Cardill
65 Bristoness Startheti Und. Sunderland. CharlFiles Bristoness Startheti Und. Sunderland. Charl-

Right - Hamiton
Five energies Strifted Utd. Sunderland. Charlton, Scunitistipe, Norsa Courty
Ten homes: Backum Lescester Liverpool.
Norwich, Swandon, West Brandon, Ginnisty

British skating yesterday received a boost by securing a C350,000 grant from the Lattery Sports Fund. For the first time British skaters will now be able to travel to next year's Winter Olympics in Nagano with a professional support group, including a psychologist, phys-iologist and nutritionist.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football 73) unless stated
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING PLAY-OFF SECOND LEG England (0) v Greece (2) (7.45) (er Cerrow Road, Norwich) FA CUP SECOND-ROUND REPLAYS
Emley v Lincoln City (7.45)
(et McAlpine stadium, Huddersfield)
likeston v Scurthorpe (7.45) FA CARLING PREMERSHIP
Newcastle v Derby (7.45)
GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE
SPALDING CUP OUARTER-FINAL
Gateshead v Morecambe (7.45)

TOURS: RESIDENT V BOSION.
UNISONE LEAGUE CUP Third nounct
Bestop Auckland v Belper Winstord v Lan-RYMAN LEAGUE Full Members Cup second round: Leyton Permant / Grays. Associate Members Trophy second round: Ford Utd v Edgware. SCREWFIX DIRRCT LEAGUE Premier Division: Chapperham v Backwell: Tambor v Caire Lea Phillips Cup sec-ond round: Bridgwater v Emore (745): Crednon v Clastonbury UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Ofvision: Me Oak v Selsey (7.5). John O Hara League Cup third round: Leaning v East Preston NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE CUP Third round: Deneby v Hell Road Rangers: Worsbrough Bridge v Curzon Astron

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Nottingham Forest v Everton (70); Telenmere v Blackburn (70); First Division: Bolton v Coventry (70) (at Leigh RMR); Ohlam v Grimsby (70) (at Selph RMR); Ohlam v Grimsby (70) (at Selph RMR); Ohlam v Brackburn (70) (at Selph RMR); Ohlam v Brackburn (70); Second Division: Eumley v Blackburd (715); Cartisle v Strawsbury (70) (at Greins); Rochdale v Strawsbury (70); Wigen v Walsell (70); Seamsby (70); Wigen v Walsell (70); Chester v Scarborough (70); Wigen v Walsell (70); AVON INSURANCE COMBENATION Chesterfield v Doncester (13).
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION
First Division: Oxford Utd v Norwich (at
Wirely Town); Swindon v Brighton (7:15);
Tottanham v West Ham (7:30) (at Leyton
Oxient)
THE TBHES FA YOUTH CUP Secondround replays: Brentford v Swarsea City
(7:0); Airsenal v Exeter City (7:0); Wimbledon v Chetesa (7:0) (at Plough Lane).

Basketball MEN'S NATIONAL CUP Semi-final second leg: Peugett Bullets Simingham v Thames Valley Tigers (70).

stand-off and a return to the left years ago, thanks mainly to at Hillsborough

Sheffield Wednesday have 19-year-old Beattie may well signed the Macedonian international defender Goce Sedloski from the Croatian club. Hajduk Split, for £1.75m.

The Owls have agreed terms with the 23-year-old Sedloski and his club after he underwent a medical, but they may have to wait up to a month for their new man to make his debut while a work permit is obtained.

The Macedonian is Ron Atkinson's second signing since returning to Hillsborough. following the arrival of the Swedish forward Niclas Alexandersson from IFK Gothenburg for £750,000.

Jim Flenting, the leading Scottish ref-eree, has been appointed to the In-lemational Board's elite panel. Swimming
David Wikle, Britain's most successtul swimmer, and leflow Olympic gold
medalists like Duncan Goodhew and Ray Harford has made his first purchase as the manager of Queen's Park Rangers, agree-Adrian Moorhouse are being recruit-ed to help British swimmers beat the world's best, by passing on their knowledge to the present generation ing to pay £250,000 for Bradford City's Australian international midfielder George Kulcsar.

Roy Hodgson is ready to throw a teenage striker. James Beattie, in at the deep end to help Blackhurn Rovers' title push. The Ewood Park manager has been unable to find a topclass forward to back up Chris Suttoo and Kevin Gallacher, so

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of matches Australia's football team remained unbeaten under coach Terry Venables. The run was terminated yesterday by Saudi Arabia, who won a Confederations Cup match 1-0 on home soil in Riyadh.

face West Ham on Saturday.

The Scotland midfielder Billy McKinlay will miss Blackhurn's Premiership match at home to Crystal Palace on 28 December and the FA Cup third-round tie against Wigan on 3 January after being booked for the fifth time this season at Arsenal on Saturday.

The Derby County manager, Jim Smith, could plunge a teenage rookie into Premiership action at St James' Park tonight. The 19-year-old Steve Elliott may earn his chance as injuries have ruled Smith's central defensive trio of Igor Stimae, Jacob Laursen and Christian Dailly out of contention.

Bolton Wanderers' appeal against Alan Thompson's recent red card at Blackburn has been dismissed by the Football Association, so the midfielder will be hanned for matches against Leeds, Barnsley and Everion.

The former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, who was last week given a fine and a suspended ban for breaching FA betting rules, played for Oldham Athletic in a private proc-

tice match at Bury yesterday. Grohbelaar, who was on Sheffield Wednesday's books carlier this season, may now sign a short-term deal for Oldham, whose manager, Neil Warnock, signed him for Plymouth Argyle at the start of last season.

Meanwhile, the Zimbabwe Football Association said vesterday it could not afford to hire Grobbelaar, the national team goalkeeper, as its coach, and has given the post to Roy Barreto, an army club coach.

- Rupert Metculf and Alan Nixon

Third Division

30 Exerc v Rochriste

36 Torquey v Nons County

Bell's Scottish League

37 Cettic v HE strizt

38 Dundee Lital v St Johnstone

39 Hearts v Rangers

Premier Division

Williams team acquitted of Senna's manslaughter

The burden of doubt has been lifted from the British grand prix outfit after a judge in imola decided they were not responsible for the death of Ayrton Senna. Derick Alsop reports on a verdict which has also confirmed Italy's place in the Formula One calendar.

Motorsport's immediate future in Italy was assured yesterday when the six defendants in the Ayrton Senna trial at Imola year's two F1 races in Italy, were acquitted of the driver's manslaughter.

The judge took just 60 seconds to deliver his verdict at the Frank Williams, team owner, Patrick Head, his technical director, Adrian Newey, the then team chief designer, and three racing officials were all found

It is thought the prosecution will exercise its right of automatic appeal, which would prolong the legal process and uncertainty into 1999 and possihly heyond.

However, developments yesterday have served to remove any doubts hanging over next much to the relief of everyone involved in racing.

the FIA, warned that all its end of a 10-month hearing. events in the country, including the grands prix of San Marino and Italy, could be cancelled if guilty verdicts had been handed down.

> Senna was killed in the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix, at Imola's Enzo e Dino Ferrari circuit. The prosecution claimed the steering column in the Brazilian's Williams-Renault broke because of faulty modification work. The defence contended that the column snapped when the car hit a concrete wall on the outside of the Tamburello curve after leaving the track at 190mph.

Williams was virtually guaranteed his acquittat after giving

months ago, when he explained he had no direct input on tech-Head and Newey, who has since joined the McLaren-

Mercedes team, should be giv-

en one-year suspended sen-

tences. There was never a

suggestion any of the defendants would be sent to jail. The judge decided there was insufficient evidence to convict any of the defendants.

None of the Williams offimakeshift court yesterday, but the team, who won both constructors' and drivers' championships last season, issued a

Motorsport's governing body, evidence to the court, two statement from their headquarters near Oxford.

h read: "Williams Grand nical matters. But the prosecu- Prix Engineering is pleased to tion maintained to the end that confirm that Frank Williams. Patrick Head and Adrian Newcy have been acquitted for all charges which were the subject of the Imola trial. Our legal advisers inform us that the prosecution has an automatic right of appeal. Clearly we would hope that this matter will

not be pursued further. We firmly believe that this was the only appropriate outcials was present at the come of the trial and now look forward to the 1998 season with confidence and enthusiasm."

Williams' lawyer. Peter Goodman, said at Imola that he

expected the verdict. "I felt the evidence went very much in our favour and that a verdict of not guilty was the correct verdict. The prosecution's evidence was not consistent and I felt it dict." He added: "Frank will be set of the trial that such a scecould not have led to a guilty ververy pleased it is all over."

The judge has yet to give the reasoning behind his verdict and until he does so, the FIA's president. Max Mosley, a lawyer, is reluctant to comment, as a brief statement issued in Paris yesterday explained. The prospect of a lengthy appeal process gives the authorities further reason for caution.

But clearly, they cleared a significant hurdle in the me-

dieval town of Imola yesterday. Guilty verdicts would have held a threat of prosecution over every other team and official in the event of fatal accidents at future Italian races.

Mosley stressed at the outnario would be deemed unacceptable and that his only course of action would be to withdraw motorsports under FIA's jurisdiction from the

The implications for a passionate motor racing name, Ferrari, and traditionalists everywhere were almost unthinkable. Imola and Monza are now confirmed as venues in the 1998 F1 World Championship

to work and compete without the pressures that have em-

The verdict does not of course, unravel the cause of Senna's fatal crash, but then that was not the specific objective of the trial. Its purpose was to establish the guilt or innocence of the six defendants.

The theories about the steering column, tyre pressures and objects on the track remain in circulation and the chances are that a definitive explanation may never emerge.

Mysteries abound in motorsport's history and in this case, as in others, the hidden truth will endure the legend.

Sheffield wins vote as site of new academy

Sheffield was yesterday chosen from a shortlist. of three as the venue for the new national sports academy. Mike Rowbottom reports.

The city of Sheffield will host world-beaters of the future.

The £60m United Kingdom Sports Institute will form a new hase for eight key sports - athletics, swimming, netball, road cycling, squash, volleyball, judo

Sheffield beat off competition from two other consortiums competing for the honour, hased around Nota year ago with 25 prospective

Up to £160m of National Lottery money will be made available by the Home Country Sports Councils to finance a new network of facilities which will

make up the institute. Up to £60m of that will go towards a site that bosted the World Student Games in 1991 and already contains major facilities such as the Don Valley stadium, the Sheffield Ice Arena and the Ponds Forge in-

Glenn Hoddle, the England: the next stage in a process months ago, said she did not coach, said: "I am deeply which I believe will provide shocked by the news and can our very hest sporting talent hardly believe what has hap- with the facilities and back-up pened. Alan was one of the out- to help them challenge and

"It will provide the very best Graham Kelly, the chief ex- : in sports science, medicine, nuecutive of the Football Associ- trition and coaching expertise ation, added: "This is terrible and will stimulate an exchange of training techniques across a

Elland Road expansion,

the key elements of a new network of top-class sporting facilities aimed at producing

and triathlon.

tingham and Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire, in the final round of a hidding process that began

"It's awful. When I first rang | ternational pool. "This is an historic moment touch and go, but now he says for sport," Chris Smith, the he has a 50-50 chance of pulling | Culture, Media and Sports Secthrough. Alan's a fighter," she · retary said.

"It fires the starting gun for



Ride a crack horse: Dawn breaks in Cumbria yesterday as One Man, favourite for Boxing Day's blg chase, is exercised by his trainer, Gordon Richards

Racing, page 25; Photograph: Julian Herbert/Allsport

generation.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Find one in tarry mess? (6) 10 Bar seven at table (9) 11 Number of Scouts taking inadequate time to return

12 River analysis (4) 13 Half of Monday in West End, jostling for gifts (10) 15 Defining line of cricketer's first overseas trip (7)
16 Manipulate displaced bone

with force (6) 19 Emaciated male agree to be re-shaped? (6)
21 Making clear profit from reticulation (7) 23 Authoritative mood in school (10)

25 Wild bear here on Welsh

coast? (4)

in cavalcade, triumphantly 28 Meet with expert? That can be fatal! (9)

29 Writer about to settle colour of eloper's boat (3-30 Show great respect for

DOWN Brits coo with excitement m such stiff dancing (8) Judgement on the way? (4-Suffer with stomach (4) Party thrown before

teatime in the PM, once Cow mad? Tie it in, franti-

Deck sailors after a party Keyboard operator, with endless strain, is on short

time (6) Standard headline (6) 14 Two ringers out of tune in Berlin, for example (10) 17 With arm through thick rope, that can be scaled (9)

18 Cause pain to give age, perhaps, that is about right 20 Ravel finds medical specialist taking drink (7) 21 Perfect apprentice, presumably (6)

22 Sound of drinkers using this Roman chalice (6) 24 One's home at university. one in NE Italy (5) Fare from France (British Rail, that is) (4)

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Alan Hudson in 'critical' condition

He was said to be in a "crit-

ical" condition after undergo-

ing a 14-hour operation at the

Royal London Hospital for in-

the family had been told to pre-

pare for the worst, but now the

this morning and have been at

the hospital since," he said.

"At five or six o'clock this morn-

His son, Alan Jnr, said that

ternal and head injuries.

signs were more hopeful.

The son of the former England midfielder Alan Hudson last night told how his family prayed for his life as the ex-professional foothaller underwent emergency surgery.

FOOTBALL

The 46-year-old Hudson, who brought a special talent and style to Chelsea, Stoke City and Arsenal, was hit by a car while walking home in the East End of London on Monday

Hudson, who made his name in the Chelsea team which beat Real Madrid to win the European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1971, had earlier attended the Sports Writers' Associatioo's annual awards at a hotel in Kensington.

like he was going to pull "Me and my family sat in the chapel praying and he's turned it around somehow. They have stabilised the bleeding and got nd of a blood clot in the brain."

At one stage Hudson was in too bad a condition to be transferred from the operating theatre, where a specialist was called in to stabilise his condition.

her busband in Bermuda six

"I had a phone-call at one happened. ing we were told it didn't look

His wife, Ann, who married

know exactly how the accident "According to the police, Alan had apparently stepped off standing players of his beat the rest of the world.

the pavement and was hit by a car. I can't believe it. We were only just getting ready for Christmas together - and now this."

Hudson's former wife, Maureen, said she has been warned that her ex-husband, whose injuries include a strattered pelvis. has a 50-50 chance of survival.

news and everybody at the FA is stunned. We can only hope range of disciplines." and pray that Alan pulls Sheffield's mission, page 26 through. Owis sign Sedloski, page 27 :

the surgeon, he said it was



Shane Warne (left) comes face to face with Photograph: AP

Warne caught out by wide delivery from reporter

Shane Warne stalked angrily out of a press conference in Melbourne yesterday after being asked a question about his weight.

Warne was attending the unveiling of a waxwork doubte for Madame Tussaud's at a café he part owns in Australia, when he was asked by a television reporter if he preferred the shape of his waz image, which looked considerably leaner than the leg spinner.

After a few moments' silence, during which Warne visibly reddened, he said: "That's why I don't answer any questions from you blokes. That's it, you've ruined it.

Then, to the astonishment of the gathering, Warne stepped down from the podium after spending only a minute before the cameras and stormed from the room.

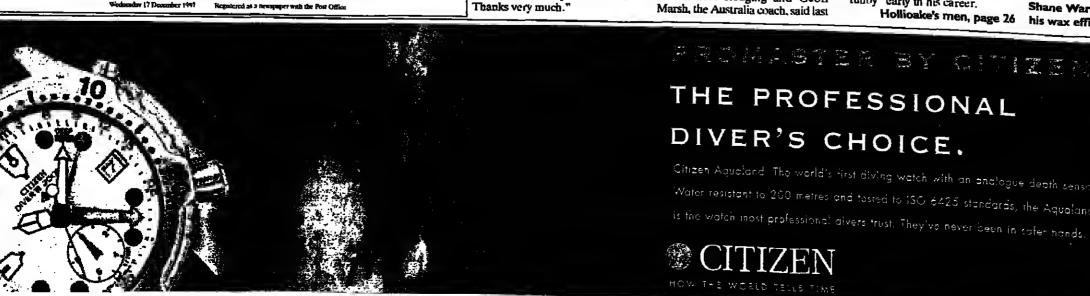
Warne's weight was a favourite target for chanting sections of English supporters during Australia's Ashes tour earlier this year and recently there has been comment about a noticeable expansion of his waistline and face. Some have speculated that he is as much as a slone overweight.

Even the touring South African cricketers have noticed, targeting him for on-field sledging and Geoff Marsh, the Australia coach, said last

weekend he was concerned about Warne's weight and had asked the bowler to monitor his diet.

Even so, Warne was in good spirits when he arrived for the function and applied his trademark zinc cream to the lips and nose of the wax dummy. He then invited the media to "feel free to ask any questions". When one reporter took him at his word, Warne took offence and left.

He will need to develop a thicker skin, like Australia's Test captain Mark Taylor, who had to learn to be more resilient about his weight. having been given the nickname "Tubby" early in his career.



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